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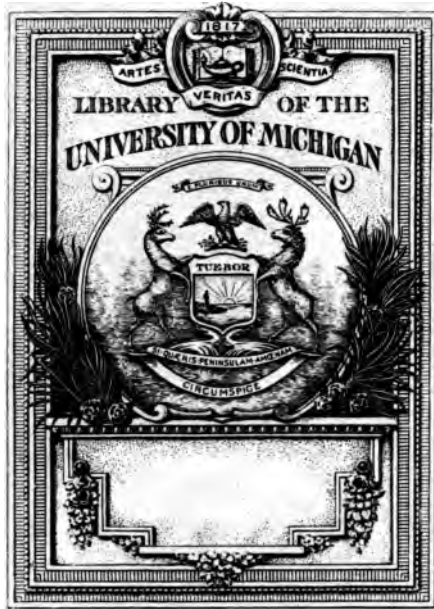
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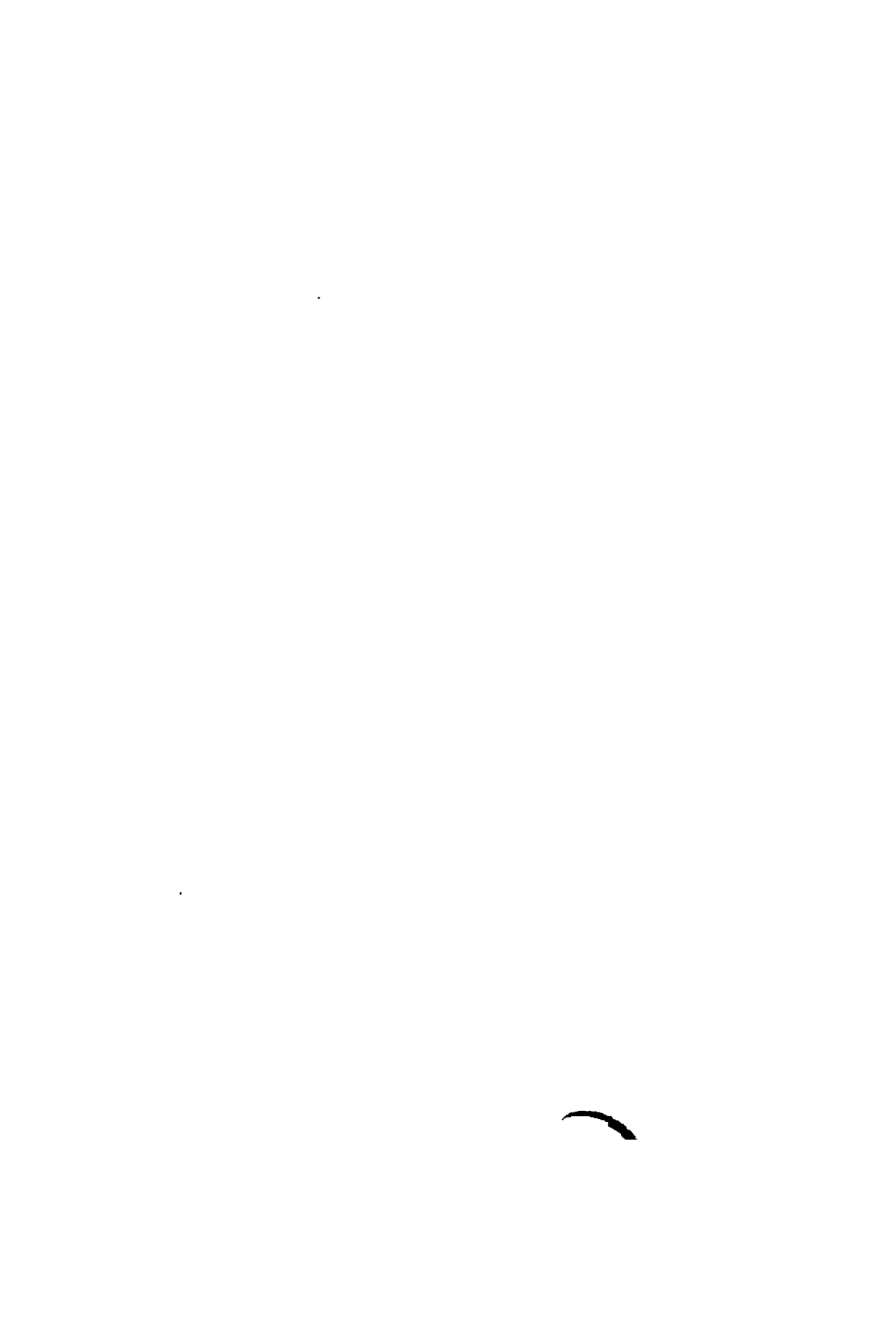


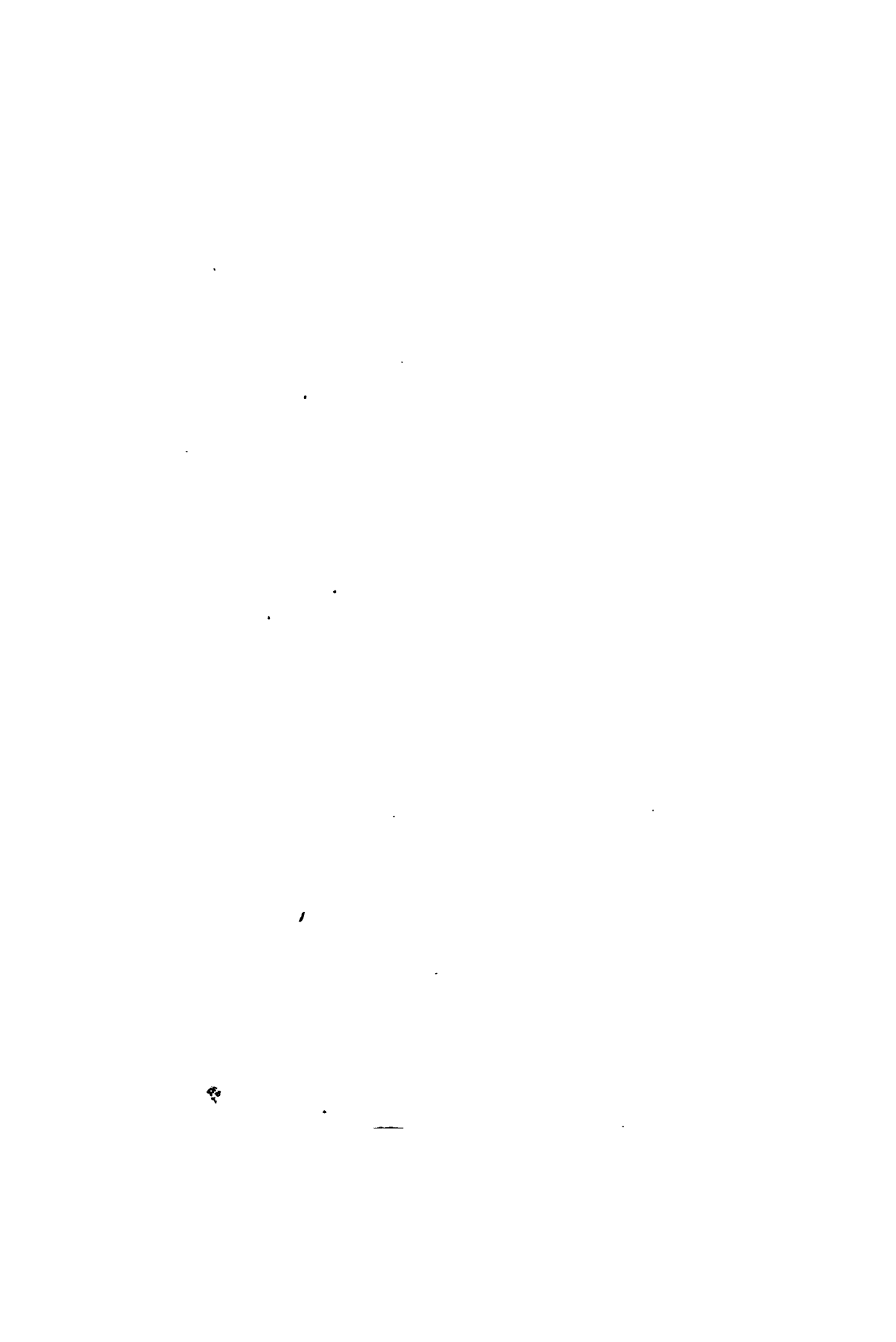
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SOPHIE MARIE COUNTESS VON VOSS.



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2011

SIXTY-NINE YEARS
AT THE
COURT OF PRUSSIA

FROM THE RECOLLECTIONS OF

THE MISTRESS OF THE HOUSEHOLD
SOPHIE MARIE COUNTESS VON VOSS

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

BY

EMILY AND AGNES STEPHENSON

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.



LONDON
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CONTENTS
OF
THE FIRST VOLUME.



	PAGE
YOUTH	1
MARRIED LIFE	39
WIDOWHOOD	177





Y O U T H

1729-1751

VOL. I.

B

61

Y O U T H.

1729—51.

SOPHIE MARIE, Countess von Voss, *née* von Pannewitz, mistress of the household to her Majesty Queen Louisa of Prussia, and after her death governess and superintendent of the royal princes and princesses, *dame du portrait* of their Majesties the King and Queen, with the ribbons of the orders of the Black Eagle,¹ of Louisa, and the Prussian ladies' order of St. Catherine, was born at Schönfliess on March 11, 1729. Her father, the Prussian Major-General Wolf Adolph von Pannewitz, of the manor of Schönfliess, near Oranienburg, colonel of the regiment of *gens-d'armes*, was born on March 13, 1679, at Gross-Gägelow, in Lower Lusatia, and died in Berlin on August 30, 1750. Her mother, Johanna Marie von Pannewitz, *née* von Jasmund, of the family

¹ A distinction, so far as we know, never given before or since.

of Trolenhagen, in Mecklenburg, was born on July 17, 1702, and died on April 17, 1771.

General von Pannewitz was an old warrior, who in 1709 received at Malplaquet a wound on the head, in consequence of which he was ever afterwards distinguished by a scar on his forehead.

The King, who held him in great esteem, never omitted on the anniversary of this battle to invite him to Wusterhausen, with special honour and ceremony. The official position of the general made Berlin his abode, and it was there that his only daughter received, under her mother's eyes, what at that time was so unwonted and liberal an education, to which her own happy disposition greatly contributed. The young girl showed a special talent for music, singing and playing with equal ability, and was not without some success in composition. As proofs of her gifts, we find further many poems and essays, of the most varied character, showing a mind full of warm feeling and earnest purpose. She had other talents also, which made her the admired and principal performer in the private theatricals, and even ballets, which often took place at Court, in which, however, must not be supposed the wild

movements of the modern stage dance, but rather the graceful evolutions of some artistic minuet.

Only her childhood fell during the reign of Frederick William I., and she appears to have spent a portion even of this at the Court of Queen Sophia Dorothea, who honoured her mother with her particular affection. Without holding any official position at the Court of this Princess, the wife of General Pannewitz was always with her. The daughter says in her memoirs, 'Her Majesty had so great an affection for my mother, that she would have liked to have her always with her, and could do nothing without her, so that my mother often spent nearly the whole day at Court.' But Frau von Pannewitz would not part with her little daughter, and took the latter with her to the Queen, who soon extended her kindness from the mother to the child, whose wonderfully early development alone can account for her mind remaining uninjured through so unsettled a mode of life. At eleven years old, the young girl must have been nearly grown up, and at any rate so pretty as to excite the admiration of the King. The Margravine of Baireuth speaks in her memoirs of the unconcealed admiration of the hitherto rather ungal-lant old gentleman for the little beauty, who took

great pains to escape from him, which admiration finally led to a catastrophe, which the Margravine relates, not without some malicious pleasure. She says on the occasion : ‘ The young Pannewitz is as beautiful as an angel, but as resolute as she is charming. When the King once met her, on the winding stairs leading to the Queen’s apartments, where she could not avoid him, and attempted to kiss her, she defended herself by giving him such a hearty box on the ear, that those who were standing at the foot of the steps could have no doubt as to what had occurred.’

The King was not angry with her for this prompt self-defence, and from that time remained very friendly to her. The future Countess von Voss, in her memoirs, only says that she saw and spoke to Frederick William I. for the last time in 1740, when she was in her twelfth year, at a great party at Count Schulenberg’s, not long before his death, and that she and her mother both wore the deepest mourning of wool and crape for him. She also continues : ‘ The King was not very tall, but looked pleasant and quite like what he was—that is, like a King. He had not a bad disposition, but he was passionate, and sometimes treated the poor Queen and the royal

children very ill. In spite of his great thriftiness, he could on occasion be very generous, and I remember well how he once, when Kleist and Einsiedel were, without any fault of their own, in great pecuniary embarrassment, sent them unasked a considerable sum of money. He took it to them himself in his carriage, in a great sack, full of gold dollars.'


The Queen Sophia Dorothea, daughter of George I., King of Great Britain and Elector of Brunswick Luneberg, was born in 1687, married in 1706, widowed in 1740, and died in 1757.

At the Court of this Princess, young Sophie Marie von Pannewitz passed her childhood and youth, of which she herself says, in the aforementioned memoirs: 'My earliest training I received from a French governess of the name of Bonafond, whom I dearly loved. She came to our house when I was only seven years old, and never left me for a day till I finally went to Court. My mother took the greatest pains to give me the best masters, and spared neither trouble, care, nor money, that I might have the best possible instruction in both science and art. I had only one brother, ten years older than myself, who entered the army at a very early age.

My parents passed the winter in Berlin, and the summer at Schönfliess, which was only an hour's distance from the town. In the year 1741 began the war with Austria. My father and my brother, the latter of whom was in the Guards, had to join the army. It was a very sad day for us all. My mother remained in Berlin: the Queen-Mother was very fond of her, and could not bear to be without her, so that she had daily to go to her, and sometimes remained the whole day. When my father, however, in the autumn of 1741, went to his winter quarters in Upper Silesia, he desired that my mother should go to him, so the Queen was obliged to part with her. We left Berlin in October, and took nearly the whole household with us. At first we remained with my father in a place called Tost, which belonged to a Count Pottulinsky. The castle was fine, and beautifully situated, but after a few months we had to move further. My father received orders to advance against the enemy, and my mother went with him to Olmütz in Moravia, where the governor of the town, Field-Marshal Schwerin, and the Bishop, Prince Lichtenstein, overwhelmed us with kindness. When my father was again quartered for some

time in a place called Sternberg, we followed him there, and remained for six weeks with him, until he had again to return to the field. We then went back to Olmütz for a time, then to Neisse, to be nearer to him, and lastly, in the summer, back again to Berlin.

‘ We were very glad when at last peace was concluded, and we had the happiness of again embracing my father and brother. The latter also went into garrison in Charlottenburg, from whence he could often visit us. In 1744 my father sent in his resignation. He was already advanced in years, and suffered so much from gout, that in fact he could not serve any longer. The King gave him a pension of 3,000 thalers, and Count Goltz succeeded to his regiment. This change did not in any way alter my parents’ mode of life : we remained from that time, just as formerly, eight months of the year in Berlin, and the rest of the time at Schönfliess. In 1743 I caught the small-pox. I was very ill, but my mother’s care, to her great joy, saved not only my life, but also my beauty, since it had pleased Providence to make my features rather pretty than ugly. This would seem to be an advantage, but I have truly found that it is not beauty that



is required to make one's happiness. For some years past the late Queen had repeatedly begged my parents to leave me entirely at Court, and they at last gave their consent. In 1743, when I had reached my fourteenth year, I was appointed lady-in-waiting to the Queen. I still remained for a time with my parents, and first went to Court in the real execution of my duties in 1744, at the marriage of Fräulein von Borke with Herr von Maupertuis, whose place I thenceforth held.

‘In the beginning of the year 1743 I was confirmed by Pastor Köppe, in Berlin, and after that time I was taken oftener than before to balls, parties, and operas. The King even, in January 1743, once had me specially invited to a masquerade, and did me the honour to talk to me. He asked me amongst other things after my father, who was unwell, and I answered, “He is better, thank God.” The King turned round and said, “She is still very innocent, since she can speak of God here.” In the year 1744 the marriage of the King's sister, Princess Ulrica, with the Crown Prince of Sweden, also took place, at which I, according to the arrangements of the Court, was not yet to have appeared, but the King sent Count Gotter the very evening before to my

mother, to tell her she must, without fail, take me with her to Court the following day. She did not like it, as I had no suitable dress, and it caused her double the expense to have a Court dress made for me in such a hurry, and she would be obliged to keep a very careful watch over me, as I was so young, and so little accustomed to society, that I was likely to make some mistake. However, she took me with her, which caused me great joy, as was only natural at my age. Soon after that I went, as has been already said, entirely to Court. It cost me some tears to leave my parents, but, in truth, they only flowed for a moment, and I was soon overjoyed at the new life which opened before me. I was then fifteen, but very unformed and childish in my thoughts and ways, as my governess had taken care that my time, up to that period, should be fully occupied with useful studies and the acquirement of real knowledge, and I knew so little of the world, in spite of my surface acquaintance with it, that I believed people one and all to be pious and good, without guile, without deceit, and without malice. The future soon, through bitter experience, taught me the contrary. For seven years I remained at the court of Queen Sophia Dorothea, whom I deeply

revered. She had never been handsome, but was stately and distinguished-looking ; and this bearing she retained to her old age. Perhaps she had more acquired than innate knowledge, but she was well instructed and very well read, could talk with any one, and was extremely agreeable in conversation. She was very sociable and fond of show ; had company every afternoon and evening, and liked to sit a long time at table, which sometimes bored us ladies-in-waiting very much.

‘ It was pleasant to see the great and respectful affection which the King her son had for her. Of her daughters, the youngest only then remained with her, Princess Amelia, born on November 9, 1723, who was made Abbess of Quedlinburg at the time of my leaving Court in 1755. She was then still young, being only six years older than I, but notwithstanding her youth she was very spiteful and much feared, and was very unkind and unamiable to us all.

‘ The King and the Prince, at the time when I came to Court, returned to the field, as the war, in 1744, again broke out. During the whole autumn of 1745 we were troubled by the Austrians, who threatened the frontiers and

Berlin. But when on December 15 the Prince of Dessau won the battle of Kesselsdorf, the Austrians hastily retreated, our army moved into winter quarters, and the King signed the peace in Dresden on December 25. The Carnival had commenced, as usual, on December 1. Every week there was a fixed reception-day at my Queen's, and the same at the reigning Queen's, fixed days for masquerades, for operas, and for plays; and as my Queen went regularly to them all, it was a great pleasure and happiness to me.

‘The Queen-Mother had four ladies-in-waiting. Fräuleins von Knesebeck, von Kalkstein, von Budow, and myself. The first, Fräulein von Knesebeck, was then with the Princess Ulrica in Sweden, and only came back in the beginning of 1746, and Fräulein von Budow was unable to go into waiting the whole winter, in consequence of a wound in her cheek, caused by a badly-drawn tooth. In the summer Fräulein von Kalkstein married the King's aide-de-camp, General von Willich, and her leaving Court was a great loss to me. From my childhood she had been my greatest friend, although she was some years older than I. She had the most charming disposition

in the world, was very gentle and amiable, and yet full of life and spirit.

‘A Fräulein von Viereck, with whom I made great friends, and who was about the same age, or perhaps rather younger than I, replaced her by the Queen, but she could not make up to me for the loss of the true love and kind advice which I had always received from Fräulein von Kalkstein, and in the difficult position in which I already found myself I missed them both doubly. The events which now crowded around me brought upon me, not only the greatest pain and the hardest struggles of my life, but they led me also to the most momentous and critical period of it, and forced decisions upon me which fatally determined my future course.’

Frederick II. returned to Berlin on December 28, 1745, amidst the rejoicings of his subjects. He was received with great ceremony, the town was illuminated, and nowhere was the joy greater than at the Court of the happy mother of the victorious King, who was so proud of this beloved son. The Dowager Queen had lived in Berlin since the death of her husband, summer and winter, at the Palace of Montbijou. But the King had given his next brother the Castle of

Oranienburg, and the latter, having set up his household there, immediately invited his mother to visit him, and during the following years of peace she regularly spent a portion of the summer with him at Oranienburg.

This Prince Augustus William, formally proclaimed by the King, Prince of Prussia and heir apparent, was born on August 9, 1722, and at the command of his father betrothed, as a child, to a daughter of the Duke of Brunswick, whom, notwithstanding his antipathy to the union, he was forced to marry in 1742, when he was scarcely twenty years of age. He had two children, one a prince, born in 1744, afterwards King Frederick William II., and, in 1751, a princess, Frederica Sophia Wilhelmina, afterwards married to the Prince of Nassau and Orange. The Prince of Prussia was ten years younger than Frederick II., and in appearance as unlike him as possible, but although not possessed of the fiery energy and great genius of his brother, he was also intellectually of a highly-gifted nature. Thiébauld says of him, in his 'Recollections of the Court of Frederick the Great' (vol. ii. p. 85): 'Full of intelligence and talent, and also of the most irresistible charm, this Prince heightened his rare

merit by his extreme modesty.' He was the idol of his father, who preferred him to all his other sons, and for a long time he was also the favourite of the King, his brother, until by his misfortune in the field he irretrievably lost his good-will. His personal appearance, the manly grace of his address, with his innate dignity, joined to the charm of his youth and fresh brightness, were very winning. The pleasant and dignified way in which he enjoyed life, soon collected around him a society at once cheerful, clever, and pure in morals.

The castle, which during the seven-and-twenty years of Frederick William I.'s reign had not been inhabited, was renewed with splendour, and was now, after long neglect, restored with the greatest care and elegance. The great garden laid out on Le Notre's plan, had only improved by long neglect. The beech hedges, which had not been cut since 1713, had grown into thick avenues, and now made alleys, whose green foliage allowed neither sun nor wind to penetrate. Only partially lighted, a cool twilight prevailed in these shady walks on the hottest summer days, and when lighted with lamps on the occasion of dances and supper parties, made the most charm-

ing green drawing-rooms. According to the fashion of the times, these garden parties were not for the ordinary dances only—Rigadons, Sarabands, *Passe-pieds* and *Aimables Vainqueurs*, alternating with concerts, private theatricals, masquerades, dramatic impersonations, and little ballets, were improvised by the frolicsome company in constant succession, in which the high spirits and poetical imagination of the Prince of Prussia outshone all others.

In the autumn, when these entertainments were transferred from the park to the castle, riding and shooting parties were added, in which, as was then the custom at all Courts, the ladies took a part.

Fräulein von Pannewitz must have been a bold and good rider, and both skilful and lucky as a shot. In the royal palace at Berlin there is still a life-size portrait of her, painted by Pesne at Oranienburg, which represents her in a hunting-dress of red velvet, a little three-cornered hat with white plumes on her head, and a gun in her hand; by her side a fine cock of the wood and other game, evidently the trophies of a good day's sport. And on one of the estates of her future husband, Gross-Giewitz in Mecklenburg, is also preserved a similar picture.

The papers of the lady-in-waiting referring to that time contain also many pages of tender remembrance of the happy days of her gay youth, which was only too soon to be clouded ; and little compliments in the French style, as was then the fashion, of which perhaps one may here find a place as a specimen.

À MADEMOISELLE DE PANNEWITZ.

A peine, hier, eus-je pris votre gant,—
 Vous prendre un gant, hélas ! c'est bien peu de chose,
 Surtout pour moi—mais, chut, encore— je n'ose
 Laisser éclore un désir trop ardent !
 Puis, je le dis en vers ainsi qu'en prose,
 Tout vaut son prix aux yeux du sentiment—
 A peine donc que fus-je rendu maître
 Du gant heureux qui toucha votre main—
 Je dis la main—il toucha mieux peut-être ?—
 Que je courus vite au séjour divin.
 Je vous entends : Comment, par quel miracle
 Auprès des dieux pouvez-vous être admis ?—
 Qui peut vous voir, aimable Pannewitz,
 De votre cour voir le brillant spectacle,
 Tous les amours en toutes les beautés,
 Une déesse en un mot accomplie,
 Qui sur la terre enfin vous voit, Sophie !
 Peut bien aux cieux voir les divinités !
 Arrivé donc à la voûte étoilée,
 En méditant le tour le plus mutin,
 Tel que celui qu'un diable féminin
 Mit en usage aux noces de Pélée,
 J'entre en tenant votre gant en main.
 A qui le gant ?—quelle est la main charmante
 Qui de ce gant relève la beauté ?—

Dis-je, en feignant un air de vérité,—
 Car cette main doit être séduisante,
 Chef d'œuvre qu'à genoux il faut baiser,
 Si de la main le gant nous fait juger ?
 Tout aussitôt déesses de répondre
 A l'unisson : ' C'est moi qui l'ai perdu—
 Oui, c'est mon gant ! '—Il vous sera rendu,
 C'est bien justice et j'en fais la promesse.
 Allons, sachons qui en est la maîtresse.
 Vous l'essayerez, mesdames, tour à tour.
 Pour notre juge ici, prenons l'Amour !
 Dans tous les cœurs soudain siffle l'envie ;
 Comment vous peindre un semblable débat ?
 Jamais la pomme avec tout son éclat
 N'avait causé une plus grande jalousie.
 Junon l'éprouve—elle a les doigts trop gros,
 Pallas trop longs—d'Hébé la main d'ivoire,
 Qui du nectar faisant jaillir les flots,
 Charme les dieux en leur versant à boire,
 Au gant fatal voit échouer sa gloire.
 Enfin—Vénus vient d'un air dédaigneux,
 L'essaie en vain, et donc en est outrée.
 ' Contentez-vous,' lui dis-je, ' de ce prix
 Qui vous donna le nom de la plus belle.
 Mais croyez-moi, Déesse, à Pannewitz
 Laissez ce gant, il n'est fait que pour elle !
 A Pannewitz cet objet séducteur !—'
 ' Je la connais,' dit le Dieu de Cithère,
 ' Qu'elle est charmante ! mais quelle beauté sévère !
 Elle a vraiment toutes les grâces de ma mère,
 Mais quel dommage qu'elle n'en ait point le cœur ! '

The concluding lines, which offer a reproach to the modest and reserved bearing of the receiver, contain at the same time the highest praise of her.

The fatal passion which the Prince of Prussia

had conceived for his mother's young lady-in-waiting, only just seventeen in this summer of 1746, was unfortunately not long kept within the bounds of stolen admiration and poetic homage. Himself only twenty-three years of age, married to a Princess for whom he had no affection, and who showed extreme coldness towards him and kept herself as much as possible aloof from him, this was no passing fancy, but the one great love of his life, which he conceived for this charming young creature, and which soon grew into an ardent flame. There can be no indiscretion in making public the notices of this period of her life, written by the hand of her who was so long and truly loved; especially as her own simple and unassuming language will best correct many facts that have been misrepresented.

But we must go back a little, to give events in their proper order.

‘The war had at last, by God's grace, come to an end, and on December 28, 1745, the King with his brothers and his generals re-entered Berlin in state. The past anxiety was succeeded by a period of universal joy and happiness. The Prince of Prussia had returned with the King,

and was often at Montbijou with his mother, who was very fond of him, and before I had any idea that he had even noticed me, he had conceived a passion for me, which was the great misfortune of his and my whole life. This attachment which began almost at the first moment of our meeting, did not pass away as quickly as it had begun ; he retained it only too truly and steadfastly till the end. For more than five years subsequently I lived at Court in constant intercourse with him, and in truth during this time I did everything in my power to combat this passion and cure him of it. But my resistance and coldness were in vain, nothing could shake the fidelity of his attachment ; do what I would he remained always the same towards me. On the contrary, instead of calming with time, he only became more unhappy and more vehement. At first he tried to conceal his feelings from me, but after some months he suddenly gave up the attempt, and made me the most passionate declaration of love, and soon he began really to persecute me with protestations and asseverations of his affection. I was quite distracted, and confided in Fräulein von Kalkstein, who earnestly advised me, as may be supposed, to declare to the Prince respectfully but firmly,

“that he must cease to say such things to me, as his attachment could only bring misfortune upon me.” As long as this good friend was at Court I always followed her advice, and was entirely led by her, but when she went away I had no one left of whom I could ask advice in the daily distress and embarrassment and the thousand anxious moments caused me by the Prince’s attentions, by his jealousy as much as by his unhappiness and his complaints. He was *very* charming, with a fine figure and a handsome face, refined and intellectual ; he was very gentle and obliging to me, and above all was most tenderly attentive. Was it not natural, considering my extreme inexperience and youth, and the novelty of a feeling that I had never yet known, that I should have liked him, and, after long resistance, that this feeling should have gained more power, and that I should have given myself up to it? By nature tender and loving, inclined to friendship, and open and confiding towards all, the manner of my bringing-up had perhaps made me timid, and increased my inborn pliability and dependance upon others. With all their kindness my parents were yet very severe towards me, and I was brought up in great subjection to and fear of

them. From this cause I long retained some hesitation and indecision of character, and even in after life, though I could be firm towards myself, I never could be so firm towards others as I ought to have been. I may say with truth, that I have never wavered in my own decision, have never been uncertain or inconstant; but I was weak towards others, and could with difficulty withstand the wishes and desires of those I loved, and this has often brought me sorrow.

‘ I often firmly resolved anew to tear from my heart my growing feeling for the Prince; I would free myself at any cost from its influence and increasing power; I would at any cost conquer my weakness. For days and days I imprisoned myself in my room that I might not see him; I avoided, I even fled from his presence; I never met him but with coldness and severity, and tried purposely to displease him. And when all this did not deter him, I have prayed and entreated him with tears to give me up and forget me,—all was in vain. He never ceased to love me till the end. Naturally passionate and incautious, he was incapable of concealing his feelings, and I almost believe that it was some comfort or pleasure to him to let them be seen. He seemed to pride

himself in acknowledging them before all the world—at least he concealed neither his sorrow nor his love; and this conduct, which arose perhaps from the strength or the hopelessness of both, and which sometimes irresistibly moved and touched me, was unfortunately too likely to endanger a young girl's good name.

‘My mother might easily have obtained my whole confidence, had she treated me kindly; but at that time she was very severe and unkind to me, and inspired me only with a servile fear; indeed, I was so much afraid of her that I tried to conceal the merest trifles from dread of her. Fräulein von Bredow, to whom the Prince had formerly paid attentions, was very jealous of me, and Fräulein von Viereck, in whom I had foolishly confided, abused my confidence and talked, so that both these companions caused me much anxiety and embarrassment.

‘In the summer of 1746 I went for the first time with the late Queen to Oranienberg, which the Prince had lately received as a present from the King, and thence to Rheinsberg. But wherever we might be the Prince followed us everywhere, and was always the same. Every morning I received a letter or note from him, and nothing

could distract him from the one thought that mastered him and made him miserable.

‘In October 1747 Fräulein von Viereck married my brother, whom the King had made Major of the Schorlemmer regiment in Prussia. The attachment between them was of old date, and at first I rejoiced much in her happiness ; but the period of her betrothal brought me many sad and bitter hours. My brother, who, as I have already said, was ten years older than I, had taken with me the tone of a stern mentor rather than a friend, and he misjudged the Prince’s character. Hardly had he left Berlin after his marriage than he wrote me from Prussia, God knows why, a letter which nearly cost me my life. It seems that his wife had betrayed to him that, notwithstanding my apparent coldness, I was favourable to the Prince at the bottom of my heart, and on this ground he wrote me the terrible letter which caused me a dangerous illness. I ought then to have brought this unhappy affair to an end for ever ; but the necessary determination failed me, and, on the other hand, I have never had anything to reproach myself with but the deep though unavowed return of the feeling which the Prince exhibited for me in so affecting

and touching a manner, and I never for a moment forgot the strictest obligations of modesty and virtue. I could not find it in my heart then to leave the Court, where my position was so pleasant and where every one was so kind to me, and yet I had to do so! Ah, the Prince's unfortunate passion spoiled my whole life and filled it with trouble!

‘About this time Count Neipperg, son of the Austrian Field-Marshal, came to Berlin, conceived an attachment to me, and asked me in marriage. He was not good-looking, but he was amiable and agreeable, and I was prepared to accept him, because I hoped through this marriage to leave Berlin and to conquer my love. But the Prince by some means, incomprehensible to me, managed to make the King refuse his consent to this marriage, and declare he would only give it if the Count would pledge himself to alienate his estates in Austria, and to buy land and settle down in Prussian territory. The Prince succeeded also in getting this condition mentioned to the Count's father in so uncourteous a manner as fully to decide him to refuse his consent. In the beginning of 1748, in consequence of this unpleasant affair, the Count was obliged to leave Berlin, but

as my parents had given him their consent he continued to write to me. However, I can only thank Providence that this marriage, which so long hung over me, was prevented for my good ; for Count Neipperg subsequently squandered his whole fortune, and I hear too that he did not make his wife at all happy. His first wife died early, and he has since married again.

‘The two last years, 1749 and 1750, which I spent at Court were passed in the same manner as the former ones. In winter and summer the Queen resided at Montbijou, going sometimes for a few days to Potsdam, sometimes to Charlottenburg, or to the Prince at Oranienberg. My sister-in-law’s place had been taken by Fräulein von Brand ; and Fräulein von Bredow, who in 1748 married Herr von Schwerin, was replaced by a Fräulein von Platen, a very pretty girl, but not clever and of a very melancholy disposition.

‘In 1750 I had the misfortune to lose my father, which so deeply affected me that I became very ill and recovered only with difficulty. In this sad year for me, a Prince Lobkowitz came to Berlin, who fell in love with and proposed to me. But soon after he fell dangerously ill, and during his illness became suddenly so bigoted that the

difference of religion between us appeared to him an insurmountable obstacle, and on his recovery he worried himself so much about this, and about his marriage with a Protestant being a sin, that at my request our engagement was broken off.

‘The younger of my two cousins Voss, who had been for four years ambassador in Dresden, about this time requested his recall of the King, who was graciously pleased to grant it. His Majesty distinguished him most honourably on his return, put him into the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and gave him a pension of 2,000 thalers. I often saw him at Court, and met him besides daily in my parents’ house, where as well as at Court he always showed me great attention and regard. Soon after my father’s death he proposed to me, but my mother for various reasons refused her consent.

My position at Court meanwhile had become very difficult. The Prince continued to insist more and more earnestly that I should promise him never to leave Court, and constantly repeated his offers. He would do anything in the world for me, but could and ought I to accept it?

‘This pressure upon me, the daily annoyance and trouble that this unhappy affair caused me,

above all the King's wishes, who was becoming very uneasy at seeing the Prince given up to one such absorbing passion, forced me to come to a desperate decision. The only escape that offered itself was the marriage with my cousin. I hesitated long, but at last I considered it my bounden duty to take this step in consideration of the desperate condition of the Prince. Shall I deny that I had no affection for my cousin? My only feeling for him was respect; but he knew all this, and was satisfied. My mother wished that I should rather return to her; but only to live in the town instead of at Court would not in my case have made any difference with regard to the Prince; only by my marriage could I put an end to all further hope. It was a terrible moment in my life; I fought a hard battle with myself. The thought of leaving both the Court and the Prince for ever was as the anguish of death; but what could I do? I had no choice; I might not shrink from this sorrow—it must be accomplished.

‘The King himself requested my mother to consent to my marriage, and was urgent in his wish for it, and so at last my betrothal was solemnly celebrated at Court on January 17, and

my marriage also on my ill-omened birthday, March 11, 1751. This day was in every respect one of the most painful I ever endured. I could not without sorrow leave the Court where I had once been so happy, and with the deepest affliction in my heart I entered the new life, to which I had bound myself for the remainder of my existence. My wedding was just like every other which is celebrated at Court. A crowd of people had been invited, and all was gaiety and splendour, so that I could scarcely collect my senses. The Queen gave me some beautiful lace, and a thousand thalers to buy my wedding gown, a white and silver brocade. I was to have gone away with my husband immediately after the holy ceremony, but unfortunately this plan was given up and nothing was spared me. The Prince was in despair; he insisted, however, on being present at the ceremony, but before it was over he fell senseless to the ground and had to be carried away.

‘The decisive step had now been taken, and I made the steadfast and solemn resolution henceforth to act solely and purely in accordance with the duties to which the vow that I had spoken bound me.

‘The same people who had been present at the ceremony accompanied me in solemn procession to my husband’s house, and the next day the Court and all the world came again to congratulate us. Then came a dinner at my mother’s house, and the following day I left Berlin with my husband.’

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It is not without interest to find repeated in the words of the learned Thiébault, a contemporary and apparently an eye-witness of these events, what the heroine of this sad love-tale has related so simply and unaffectedly in the foregoing pages. In the ‘*Souvenirs de vingt ans de séjour à Berlin*,’ by Thiébault, we find in part ii. page 52 :—

‘The lady who had inspired the Prince of Prussia with so warm an attachment was Fräulein von Pannowitz, and the world must at least confess that she was fully worthy of being the object of so passionate and unconquerable a love. Tall and slight, with the form of the huntress Diana, and yet fair and lovely as Venus, she was as charming, as innocent, and as amiable as she was beautiful. The Prince had set his mind upon obtaining a divorce from his wife, that he might

offer his hand to her, and the highest authority was obliged to interfere in the matter. At last, after much trouble and many struggles by secret ways, which only the utmost determination and the most reckless scheming could have used, the unfortunate man was deprived of his lady-love! Fräulein von Pannewitz herself even was so frightened and overpowered by a storm of remonstrances and admonitions, her high spirit was so worked upon, that she voluntarily sacrificed herself, and that with a courage and self-denial which all noble and feeling hearts must understand and admire. To make all future hope impossible to the Prince, she suddenly and most unexpectedly resolved upon marrying. From the day of her marriage she lived as quietly and as much retired from the world as possible. Gentle and amiable as ever, she seemed only occupied in the education of her children. She must have been touched by the merits and goodness of the Prince and by his long and faithful love, and yet she gave him up, and by her marriage rendered any further connection impossible. She did this with such determination and strength of mind, she showed so high and rare a courage in the way in which, notwith-

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standing the resistance of her own heart, she kept to her resolution and withstood her lover's wild and passionate despair; and she subsequently so faithfully and steadily avoided every opportunity of encouraging the painful and dangerous recollections of the past, that she awoke the astonishment, the admiration, the reverence even of all who were acquainted with the warmth of her heart, and the depth and strength of her feelings.'

She left Berlin in 1753, and does not appear to have seen the Prince again before his death. But in her heart she remained true to him. She named her eldest son after him, William Augustus, and when he was torn from her by death, she gave to her only grandchild, born after his father's death, the same name. Two pretty old-fashioned pieces of furniture, a small corner cupboard, and a little writing-table, both made of rosewood with bronze ornaments, presents from the Prince in the days of happy freedom at Oranienburg, which were greatly valued by the Countess Voss of later times, are still preserved as memorials of her in the house at Gross-Giewitz.

The early and tragical end of the unhappy Prince of Prussia is well known. The renewal of the war recalled him to the army in 1756, and

by his prudence and courage he won the high approval and confidence of the King. But after the defeat at Collin on June 18, 1757, the King divided his forces into two army corps, and himself taking the command of one, entrusted the other to the Prince's leadership. The King executed his own difficult task of keeping the enemy engaged as long as possible in Bohemia, and then retiring slowly upon Silesia, with brilliant success; but the Prince, to whom a similar charge had been given, and who was to remain some time in Bohemia and then withdraw slowly into Saxony, was not so fortunate. He soon fell short of provisions, and being pressed by the Austrians lost not only all his baggage, but a great many of his men. The King, who attributed this serious mishap entirely to his conduct, made no attempt to conceal his dissatisfaction. Already disheartened by his misfortunes in the field, the Prince was doubly affected by his royal brother's displeasure, and left the army in consequence. He wrote from Bautzen to ask permission to go to Berlin, 'as his health had greatly suffered from trouble and hardships;' and died shortly afterwards at Oranienburg.

Amongst the papers left by the Countess Voss

is a remarkable letter, containing particulars of the Prince's end, which are probably not generally known. The writer, Frau von Kleist, was most likely the former lady-in-waiting of the Queen Dowager, *née* von Schwerin, who afterwards married again Herr von Du Trossel. She sends the news of the Prince's death to the woman once so warmly loved by him, and towards whom his feelings never changed, and tries to comfort her. The letter is written from Berlin, and dated June 20, 1758. After the announcement of the sad intelligence, and an expression of sorrow and sympathy, the writer continues as follows:—

‘The Prince was perfectly aware that death was approaching, and knew it even long before his last days. Four weeks before his end he spoke of it to his old regimental surgeon, who always lived with him, and said that he left Berlin on purpose to die quietly at Oranienburg. At the same time he most strictly forbade him to reveal this to any one whatsoever, as he was determined not to call in a physician, nor to take any remedies, having a firm and certain hope that all would soon be over with him. He gave him permission, however, as a reward for his silence and fidelity, to examine his body after his demise

if it was of any consequence to him to ascertain the physical cause of death. The unfortunate surgeon was in despair, but before long he was comforted by the sudden arrival in Oranienburg of Herr von Forcade, the former Colonel of the Prince's regiment, who came to visit him. Forcade was shocked at the Prince's appearance; the surgeon confided to him his determination, and the Colonel immediately sent an express to Princess Amelia to inform her of her brother's illness. The Princess arrived without delay with the celebrated Doctor Meckel, but the Prince would not listen to her. Not all her prayers and tears could induce him to see Meckel, and he was obliged to take his leave. The Princess, however, would not be silenced or sent away; she remained persistently with the sick man, and never left him till his last moment. A few days only after he had sent away Meckel he was so ill that he lost consciousness, and was obliged to keep to his bed. The Princess took advantage of this moment, and summoned in haste not only Meckel but three other doctors from Berlin, who declared the malady to be a kind of inflammation of the brain, and directed every endeavour to mastering the fever. They succeeded in checking the disease, *the delirium ceased, the patient appeared to be*

saved, but hardly had he come to himself than he dismissed the doctors and obstinately refused to use any further remedies. And so matters went on. Only when the increasing fever stupefied him, and his delirious fancies returned, could the remedies required by his situation be used, and the inflammation subdued. Each time this was followed by improvement, but no sooner was the recovery so far advanced that the poor man's senses returned than every chance was lost of nursing or curing him further. He would take nothing, would not even allow his pulse to be felt, repulsed every approach of the doctors with the greatest irritation and excitement, and did everything possible to make his situation desperate. At last there seemed really to be no help possible, and he was quite given up; he was informed of this, and for all answer only folded his hands and exclaimed fervently and repeatedly: "Jesus, have mercy on me." He then asked for the clergyman of the place, and showed when he came, and afterwards to the end, the greatest devotion and piety. Princess Amelia nursed him devotedly, and never left him. I think the King, too, will be much shocked and grieved at the melancholy intelligence: for immediately after the first letter which the Princess wrote to him from Oranien-

burg, to announce the Prince's illness, he thanked her most warmly in his answer for having hastened to the invalid to look after him, and repeated several times that even the smallest care and attention which she showed to him, and everything that she did for him, he should consider as having been done for himself. He conjures her by every possible consideration not to leave the Prince for a moment, and to neglect nothing which lay in her power to preserve the life of a brother who was so inexpressibly dear to him. He adds: "Although the patient's condition seems very serious, yet I have great hopes in his youth and his strong constitution." He concludes, too, with the request to her to say a thousand tender messages—*mille tendresses*—to him in the King's name, and to send the latter as often as possible news of his improvement.

'You see,' concludes the writer, 'if Heaven had otherwise decreed, this illness might perhaps have been the means of a lasting reconciliation between the two brothers. But the sorrow and despair of the unfortunate Prince killed him, and thwarted every hope of saving him.'

This messenger of death alone ended the story of this sad and unfortunate love affair.

MARRIED LIFE

1751-1793

MARRIED LIFE.

1751-93.

JOHN ERNEST VON VOSS, the husband of Fräulein von Pannewitz, was born on January 25, 1726, and in June 1744 had already entered the Prussian Civil Service, where Frederick II. soon learnt to value the accomplished youth, who certainly promised very highly for his age. In September of the same year, when he was eighteen years of age, he made him Privy Councillor, with a seat and vote in the High Court of Appeal in Berlin, in which position he remained till 1747. He was then placed in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and in 1748 was sent as ambassador to the Court of King Augustus of Poland. He soon quitted Dresden, which was then the capital, and went with the King to Warsaw, where he actively upheld the Prussian interest in the Diet which was held there in the summer of 1748, and in the extraordinary Diet of 1750.

In October of the latter year, being at his own repeated request recalled to Berlin, he had the satisfaction of being received by the King with the most complimentary expressions of acknowledgment for his past services.

The pecuniary circumstances, however, of the young ambassador had not improved by this mission. On his departure for Dresden he was dismissed by Frederick II. with these words: 'Look after my interests. You know what the Poles are, and how they must be handled, and must spare no money in Warsaw, but spend freely. You shall not be the loser by it.' Thus commissioned, and being in consequence of his father's death, in 1739, already in possession of his property, he did not require to be told twice. He made a princely show in Warsaw, kept open house for the Polish nobility, and followed out the royal instructions in the most magnificent fashion. On his return the King rewarded him with, for him, rare graciousness: 'I am pleased with you, you have done your business well. You have had great expenses, and I will order a thousand ducats to be paid to you.'

But this did not by any means cover the Warsaw expenses, and the young man, wishing to

settle his pecuniary affairs, went to Mecklenburg and sold one of his finest properties, Rumshagen, to the family of Gundlach, in whose possession it has ever since remained.

On his return to Berlin he was appointed by the King ambassador to the Court of Vienna, but mindful of his anti-Austrian proceedings in Warsaw, and also on other political grounds, Herr von Voss begged the King not to send him to Vienna, but to make another choice.

At first the King kept the hitherto active young diplomate quietly by him at Potsdam, gave him a pension for life of 2,000 thalers, and during the Carnival of 1751 took him in his personal suite to Berlin, where Herr von Voss married Fräulein von Pannewitz. His mother was, like hers, a daughter of the 'Ober Land Marshal' von Jasmund, so that the young couple were first cousins.

The King's letter giving his consent to the marriage runs as follows:—

'Berlin: January 20, 1751.

'It is with much satisfaction that I give you the consent you ask for in your letter of the 18th of this month, to your union with the daughter of General von Pannewitz. I am delighted that

RECOLLECTIONS OF COUNTESS VON VOSS.

your views should accord so well with my intentions, and you could not have made a choice more worthy of yourself, or more agreeable to me. I congratulate you with all my heart, and wish you all the satisfaction you can desire in this union. With which I pray God to have you in his safe and holy keeping.

‘FREDERICK.’

A second letter from the King conveyed to Herr von Voss the permission he had requested, to have his banns only once published in church.

‘Potsdam: March, 12, 1751.

‘I willingly grant you the dispensation from the ordinary formalities in the publication of banns, which you ask me for in your letter of the 10th of this month. You will receive with this the dispensation, which you can use as you see fit. I wish you again all imaginable satisfaction in your approaching marriage. With which I pray God to have you in his holy keeping.

‘FREDERICK.’

Some letters from the bridegroom to his betrothed during the short time of their engagement, when the two were together in Berlin, show

that on his side the marriage had been preceded by an attachment of long standing. In one of these he complains of the difficulties and impediments he has to contend with to approach her, and then continues :—

‘But if it cost me a thousand times more, whatever may happen, I shall consider everything as a trifle compared with the great happiness which comes to me through you, whom for so many, many years I have loved and esteemed with the deepest devotion.’

In another letter, probably uneasy on account of her coldness, he says :—

‘It is true that I have daily the pleasure of seeing you, but the enjoyment I derive from that is not by any means complete, seeing that I find myself so embarrassed that I only dare speak to you a word in passing. It is impossible to remain contented on these terms, since your favours are too dear to me for me not to be impatient to experience them anew each day. I am in a perfect fever, for, without being sure of your feelings, I can only admire each day your beauty in public.’

A third note may find a place here, as characteristic of the form of expression of the time,


which he sent to his betrothed, apparently without signature, and accompanied by a gift :—

‘Madame,—Do me the favour to accept this bouquet and accompanying casket, not as a present, for I could find none worthy of you, but as a mark of the goodwill of him who certainly and without doubt loves and esteems you more than all the world besides. I flatter myself that, knowing the sentiments and characters of those who surround you, you will easily guess his name, therefore I refrain from mentioning it. Nevertheless, I cannot help telling you that it is he whose whole happiness you make, and who is consequently, in heart and soul, yours alone!’

With these old letters was found the complete inventory of the dowry which the bride brought to her husband. The catalogue, which specifies first the diamonds, then the other ornaments, the plate, furniture, linen, and so forth, is signed and witnessed by the latter, which to our present notions seems very extraordinary.

The King had again appointed Herr von Voss to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he had the superintendence of Saxon and Polish business.


Two years later, in 1753, he went to Magdeburg as President of the Government, and re-



mained there ten years. In the meanwhile, the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel had repeatedly offered him the post of Prime Minister at his Court, and Herr von Voss, having been left so long at Magdeburg, believed himself set aside and forgotten by the King, to whom he had written eleven different times to ask his leave to resign, and permission to take the offered post in Cassel. But the King peremptorily refused both, and at last in 1763 appointed him steward and superintendent of the household of Queen Elizabeth Christina, with the title of Excellency. A few years later he was made master of the household to the Queen, with the rank of a cabinet minister, and the express permission to live several months of the year on his own estates. These lay in the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the estates of Gross und Klein Giewitz, Alt und Neu Schönau, and Rumshagen having at the division of property on the death of his father fallen to him; his brother, on the other hand, getting the property of Flotow, and of Buch, Karow, and Birkholz near Berlin. Besides the above-mentioned brother, Herr von Voss had one only sister, who married Herr von Rochow, of Stülpe, and whose daughter became the wife of his only son. On the day after his

wedding, as already stated, Herr von Voss left Berlin, which under the existing circumstances, and considering the extreme grief and anger of the Prince of Prussia at the marriage, was the only way to lighten to his young wife the first difficulties of a union contracted under such conditions. We will now go back to her own notes, and select a few pages from them.

‘After my marriage, my husband took me at once to his estates near Mecklenburg, but the season was still too inclement for us to remain there, and so he took me first for a few days to Lübeck, where an aunt of mine, Frau von Witzendorf, lived, and then we continued our journey through Hamburg. Without remaining long in any one place we were more than three months on the road from the middle of March to the beginning of July, and I need not say how I felt this travelling about. At last, in July, we returned to Mecklenburg, and remained alone for five months, in an almost isolated country-seat, in great seclusion. The place we then inhabited pleased me well enough in itself. The house was comfortably built, in the centre of a pretty garden bounded by a lake, in a beautiful situation.




Immediately after our arrival here in July, the marriage of my sister-in-law with Herr von Rochow was celebrated. My mother-in-law also remained with us during the whole of our stay in the country, and it was hard enough for me to live with her, as, although good-natured at heart, she was extremely irritable, and, moreover, ill-disposed towards me.

‘From the middle of March to the end of November, that is, more than eight months, we had been away from Berlin, and my longing to return had become very great. My husband had a house in the Heilige Geist Strasse, where we lived. He was employed in the Ministry, and went besides every Thursday to the councils. I was expecting my confinement, and lived very quiet and retired. On January 21, 1752, God gave me a son, whose birth caused my husband great pleasure. He was at that time very much with the King, who congratulated him most heartily on the event, which greatly pleased him. The whole Court in a body wished to stand sponsors to my child, and I was full of joy, but three days before the christening my husband got the small-pox. He believed himself to have caught it from fright whilst talking to Colonel

von Kraut, who was with Prince Ferdinand, and who had just had it.

‘On the day of the christening itself, my husband was so ill that he was given up. The Royalties sent their ladies and gentlemen to represent them, but did not come themselves. My situation was indescribably wretched: only ten months married, with a child of three weeks old, and moreover in very embarrassed circumstances and with very little experience, it would have been terrible for me to have been again left all alone. But Providence had compassion on me, and permitted my husband, who was thought to be dying, to recover. My mother-in-law, who had hastened to him, and the Chancellor, Baron von Pieret, stood by me faithfully in my need, especially the latter, who came daily, and had a special dress in our house, that he might change it before going out, and so avoid spreading the small-pox elsewhere. My mother also was with us every other day, and devoted herself with much self-sacrifice to support me. As soon as my husband was able to travel we left Berlin, and went to my sister-in-law, Frau von Rochow, at Stülpe, and then to Gross-Giewitz, where we again spent the whole summer and autumn. My mother-in-law also



came again to us, and I went with her occasionally for a couple of days to Strelitz, where lived an old duke and an extremely coquettish old duchess, the latter of whom was very fond of my mother-in-law. My brother-in-law, who had been sent to Denmark, also returned at this time and visited us, and this summer, for the first time since my marriage, I lived a somewhat happier life. In the winter we again returned to Berlin. I now went back to Court, saw the Prince constantly, and he always met me with the same attention and distinction as formerly, but he looked ill, reproachful, and in some measure offended, and that pained me very much. My enemies—and we all have them—had exasperated him against me, and persuaded him that I had wronged him, inasmuch as I had married in spite of his love and prayers, instead of remaining at Court for his sake; and that I could and should have kept my name and honour equally unstained. He believed it, and that hurt me very, very much. I was again expecting my confinement, and was delivered of my second son on March 29, 1753. Only Princess Henry, *née* Princess of Hesse Cassel, whom I dearly loved and honoured, and who had only married the year before, and the Prince of

Prussia were his sponsors, and he was named after the latter, William Augustus. At this time my husband begged the King to give him some post in the administration, as he had not enough to do at the Foreign Office, and wished for more employment. The King granted his wish, and made him President of Magdeburg. I was inconsolable at this removal, and am quite certain that it would have been better for my husband's future career had he remained in Berlin. He would not have been so soon forgotten there, and ill-natured people would not have found ways and means to decry him to the King without his being able to set himself right. But the jealousy which possessed him, and which to his and my torment daily grew and increased, without my giving him the slightest cause for it, was the only reason for his determining on this step. I remained a fortnight after his departure in Berlin to dispose of my house, but the moment of parting came at last, and it was very hard! The separation from my mother, and from all my friends at Court, from the Dowager Queen above all, who had indeed loaded me with love and kindness, was a moment of such indescribable pain and grief that I can positively say this forced separation,

carried out from so arbitrary and unjust a motive, was the commencement for me of the unhappiness of my future married life. Everything, everything united to aggravate this parting, and with many tears I tore myself away from the beloved people, and the beloved place, which I then thought I was leaving for ever.

‘When I got to Magdeburg I found a pretty house ready to receive me, and I liked the town very much, only unfortunately it is fortified, and that gives it rather a melancholy appearance. My husband had come to meet me, but missed me, through the stupidity of my postilions, who took the wrong road, and nearly upset me into the Elbe. At first I lived very quietly, and saw no society at home; my husband was very busy; I was alone with my children, and he had to spend the whole day in the Government Office. I took the greatest pains, but in vain, to accustom myself to so strange a life; I could not do it. It was the custom in Magdeburg to give nothing but interminable big dinners, at which people sat at table half the day, and bored themselves to death. I tried now and then to break through these dinners, and to substitute suppers, as is the custom in the rest of the world. I began to see people

oftener at home, and they all came willingly and with pleasure, which I was very glad of. I made friends with Fräulein von Bork, daughter of General von Bork, a very amiable and clever girl, but unfortunately death deprived me of her in 1756.

‘On December 14, 1755, God gave me a daughter. Frau von Biedersee nursed me in my confinement. At first I was pretty well, but in a few days I was attacked with spasms, and these nervous spasms have ever since been my torment. By the advice of the doctor, my husband took me the next summer of 1756, first to the baths of Aix-la-Chapelle, and then to Spa, whilst my children remained under good care at Gross-Giewitz. Both these watering-places were very full and lively, and I met many amiable people, and made some very agreeable acquaintances; amongst others the Saxon Field-Marshal Rutowitzky and Count Gollowkine. My husband had himself suggested that these gentlemen should be introduced to me, and constantly begged me to try and divert and rouse myself, but it was not long before the old failing of jealousy was again aroused, every unconsidered word gave cause for it, and put an end to all unconstrained intercourse

between us. We went in the autumn through Gross-Giewitz to fetch the children, and then back to Magdeburg, and the society there began to be more agreeable.

‘During our absence, General von Bonin had died, and Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick was appointed Governor of the town in his place, and this change of persons was a very happy one for our little world. The Duke gave suppers daily, sometimes large, sometimes small, to which we were invited once for all, and if by chance he had no one with him, he came with his aide-de-camp and spent the evening with us. But of him also my husband unfortunately soon became jealous, although the Duke never gave him the slightest cause, and he began to make incessant scenes about it. The Duke, who had a great sense of honour and much firmness, remarked this after a time, spoke to my husband very seriously, and in fact gained such influence over him as for a time at least completely changed his behaviour to me.

‘In the year 1756 Princess Amelia came through Magdeburg, on her way to Quedlinburg, to be enthroned as abbess. She begged me very hard to accompany her, and so I went with her

and remained the whole time of her stay at Quedlinburg.

‘I had only just returned, when the terrible war with Austria and its allies again broke out. Our entire garrison marched into the field, and Magdeburg was suddenly left as empty as a desert.

‘In 1757 the Dowager Queen, whom I had always so sincerely loved and honoured, died, and this loss caused me great grief. But far, far bitterer was the death in the following year of the Prince of Prussia, over whom I mourned inexpressibly. He had been unlucky in the retreat from Bohemia. The Austrians had pressed him hard, and done great damage to his troops, which had caused him much anxiety, and brought upon him the ill-will of the King. He left the army upon this, in utter despair and dejection, and finally fell ill, and died of grief at Oranienburg. At the same time I had the misfortune to lose my eldest son. He was seven years old, and died almost at table, in the course of a quarter of an hour, in consequence of swallowing a plum-stone, which choked him. This loss, over which I shall ever mourn, shook me so that it laid me on a sick bed, and my health was for a long time destroyed. Every one in Mag-

deburg with whom we were acquainted was extremely kind to me at this time, and tried all they could to console me, but time alone can mitigate the pain of such a wound, which one can never learn to forget.

‘My husband also did all he could to divert and support me, and was very good to me during this unhappy time. For his sake, I tried with all my might to conquer my grief, but I could not for one moment forget the dear child, who from his cradle had been so gently affectionate, so good and so obedient. But God has shown me great mercy, for I have never experienced anything but joy and happiness from the two children who remained to me.

‘In 1759, after the calamity at Kunersdorf, the enemy drove the royal household from Berlin. They fled to Magdeburg.¹ This occurred again in 1760 and 1761, and in the latter year the Court was forced to remain several months. We had to turn out of our house every time, to give

¹ Frederick II. wrote, as is known, on August 12, 1759, after the day of Kunersdorf, to the Minister Finkenstein, on a scrap of paper, which still exists, ‘Save the Royal Family. I have no further resources; and to tell the truth, I think all is lost. I shall not survive the loss of my country! Adieu for ever.’

it up to the Princess of Prussia, for whom no other sufficiently large house could be found.


‘A portion of the Berlin society had followed the Court, from fear of the enemy. Almost all my acquaintances and friends, from time to time, assembled here, and not only they, but the Royal Family also, were full of goodness and kindness to me, and the presence of Princess Henry, whom I so sincerely liked, was a great comfort to me.’

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Besides these notes on the outward details of her life, was found amongst the papers left by Countess von Voss a diary written in French, beginning in the year 1760, and continuing down to her death in 1814. Unfortunately it is too laconic and sparing of words to give any insight into her own feelings.

It is also written with great caution, often hinting at things which could only be understood by herself in reading it through, or giving initials instead of names, and is confined to the briefest notice of the events of each day, generally without any reflections or sentiments being added. Notwithstanding such scanty and dry contents, it may

not be without interest to throw at least a passing glance upon it ; the entries for a few months here set down will be quite sufficient to give a specimen of the manners and customs of the day, showing as they do in an almost incredible manner how at the very period when the King, overwhelmed with every kind of misfortune and trouble, was struggling with ever higher courage against the preponderance of his enemies ; his wife, sister, and sisters-in-law, with the whole Court, were occupied only in killing time with trifling pleasures, hardly giving a serious thought to the number of provinces of their unhappy country, exhausted by the war, which were now groaning under the heavy hand of Russians, Austrians, or French. The fact is the more striking when we consider the then existing state of affairs. The victory of Liegnitz on August 15, 1760, had given the hard-pressed King a moment's breathing space ; but this was only the first gleam of sun after a whole year of misfortune and defeat. How little Frederick II. deceived himself as to the almost hopeless difficulties of his position is proved by the letter which he wrote on September 18 from Breslau to the Marquis d'Argens, in which the hero, whose manly courage had withstood such hard trials,



describes his situation with deep grief as almost desperate. 'The danger,' he says, 'has only taken another shape, but nothing is yet decided. I am gradually being consumed, like a body from which some limb is daily torn. May Heaven defend us! We greatly need its help. You are always reminding me of myself, but you should above all consider that it is not necessary that I should live, but rather that I should do my duty and fight for my fatherland, and save it if that be yet possible. You can form no conception of the frightful miseries we have to endure; this campaign exceeds in that respect all our former ones, and sometimes I do not know which way to turn. My light-heartedness has long since been buried with all the dearly-loved friends to whom my heart held so closely. The close of my life is sorrowful and full of pain. Do not forget your old friend, dear Marquis!' And in a later letter to D'Argens of October 28, shortly before the battle of Torgau, the thought of absolute annihilation is evidently before the eyes of the hard-pressed monarch.

. . . . 'Never,' he says in this letter, 'will I live to see the moment which should compel me to conclude a disgraceful peace, and no consideration on earth can have power to force me to

subscribe to my own shame. Either I shall be buried in the ruins of my country, or if even this death is too sweet to satisfy the fate that persecutes me, I will put an end to my misfortunes when it is no longer possible to bear them with honour. I have never acted otherwise than according to my true conviction, and following the dictates of honour, and the last step of my life shall be in harmony with these principles. My youth I sacrificed to my father, my manhood to my country, and I have surely the right now to dispose of my old age. There are people who can submit and bow themselves to any event: that is not my case. I have lived only for others, but I will die for myself. I shall ask little what the world may say, and shall think I shall hear little of it either. When all things fail us, and even hope vanishes, death and contempt of life become our duty !'

In the presence of such heavy afflictions weighing on the country and its hero-King, the threatening gravity of which may be gathered from the above letter, a painful impression must be made by the life at Court as it is pictured in the following notes. It would be most unjust to blame individuals for what belonged to the manners and

customs of the time; but the difference between then and now stands out with startling clearness.

For the comprehension of the following pages it will be better to give an account of some of the people mentioned in them. The first person naturally is the reigning Queen, Elizabeth Christina, wife of Frederick the Great, daughter of the Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg-Wolfenbüttel, born November 8, 1715, married June 12, 1733, and who died eleven years after her royal husband in 1797. Next comes her sister, wife and now widow of the Prince of Prussia, who died in 1758, and her son, a boy of sixteen, now Prince of Prussia and afterwards King Frederick William II. Then the Princess Amelia, Abbess of Quedlinburg, already mentioned, who was born in 1723, and whose attachment to the unfortunate Trenck is but too well known. It is known, too, how severe was the punishment of the gallant young officer for his part in this forbidden love affair. For years a prisoner in the fortress of Glatz, he succeeded at last, after many abortive efforts, in escaping with another prisoner. But at the first jump into the moat the latter broke his leg, and Trenck who would not leave him helpless, carried his companion on his back during the whole dangerous flight

till they crossed the Bohemian frontier. Unfortunately he again roused the King's anger by some culpable indiscretions on his part, and from Russia, where he had gone, was given up and taken to the fortress of Magdeburg. Here he lay for ten years, loaded with chains of sixty pounds weight, in a dungeon dug for him eighty feet below ground, and only such giant strength as his could have lived through it all. For the sake of truth, it must be said that the King knew nothing of the cruel severity of this treatment.

He had only said that the prisoner must not be allowed to escape again ; and from a private feeling of revenge the commandant of the fortress used this pretext to add dungeon and chains to the punishment decreed. At last, however, the unwearied efforts of the Princess Amelia succeeded in freeing the unfortunate Trenck. At the end of the seven years' war she endeavoured to gain the Empress Maria Theresa to the cause of the prisoner. A bribe of 10,000 ducats secured a confidential servant of hers, who actually succeeded in persuading the Empress to demand Trenck's liberation as a condition of peace ; but this was only yielded by Frederick II. with the stipulation of banishment

from Prussia attached to it. Trenck now wandered about restlessly for some years, and finally married and settled at Aix-la-Chapelle, where his house gradually filled with a family of eight children. After the death of Frederick the Great he obtained permission to return to Prussia, and saw again the Princess he had once so warmly loved ; she promised to take charge of his eldest daughter, but her death, which ensued very shortly afterwards, prevented the promise taking effect. The long-banished exile succeeded, however, in obtaining possession of the remnant of his former property in East Prussia, and with it established himself in Paris, where a few years later he died under the guillotine. The poor Princess who had shown such fidelity and self-sacrifice in her efforts for the freedom of the handsome reckless adventurer, seemed to have exhausted all her capacity of loving in this one attachment. Depressed by trouble and ill-health, she gradually became so sharp and bitter that she was always called ' the malevolent fairy,' from an epigram of her brother Henry, and became the terror of the whole Court from her follies and suspicions.

The brightest star and ornament of the Court,

on the other hand, was the beautiful young wife of Prince Henry, the King's second brother. This Princess, Wilhelmina, daughter of the Prince of Hesse Cassel, so renowned for her beauty, was born in 1726, and married to the Prince in 1752. She had no children, lived to a great age, and died in 1808 during the residence of the Court at Königsberg. In her youth this talented Princess appears to have been the favourite of the Court and of society, and instead of her name or title was called only by a number of flattering nicknames, such as 'the beauty,' 'the beautiful fairy,' 'the divine,' or 'the incomparable.' Thiébauld always mentions her in his 'Souvenirs de vingt ans' with expressions of admiration, and amongst other things says of her :—

'Prince Henry's wife was very beautiful and in the bloom of youth. Not only were her features charming, but her figure, slender yet rounded, was incomparable, and the native dignity of her demeanour increased the effect of her appearance.'

This Princess honoured the Countess Voss with her special friendship, and young, gay, and lively herself, endeavoured to divert and cheer the latter, who with difficulty struggled against

her many trials. When 'the princess' alone is spoken of, it always means her. Of her household are only mentioned here the principal lady-in-waiting, Countess Blumenthal, and the other two ladies, Frau von Marsehall, *née* von Wrech, and her daughter, Frau von Tauenzien; the steward of the household, Herr von Wrech and Herr von Knyphausen, gentlemen-in-waiting.

Of the Queen's household are named occasionally the two gentlemen-in-waiting, Count Lehndorff and Baron Müller, and the principal lady-in-waiting, Countess Kannenberg. Of the young Prince of Prussia's household—his governor, Count Borke, and his late father's gentleman-in-waiting and confidant, Sperandieu; of foreign ambassadors only the English one, Mitchell; besides these, are the names of a number of prisoners of war, the principal of whom the King out of special consideration always sent to Magdeburg, where they were bound only by their parole, and were perfectly free otherwise in their actions, and were treated with courtesy and kindness by the different Courts. Amongst these the names often recur of the Princes of Nassau and of Nassau-Elsingen, Counts Seckendorf, Lamberg, and Nugent, the latter of whom must not be confounded with the

Nugent who was Austrian ambassador at Berlin shortly before and after the Seven Years' War.'

'Magdeburg: Sept. 1, 1760.

'I wrote letters to Berlin, dined with Frau von Kraut, played comet after dinner with the Prince Elsingen, Baron Müller, and Kraut, and returned home at five o'clock. In the evening I went to the Princess of Prussia, and played tradrille with Herr von Wolde, Count Borke, and my husband. At supper I sat between Count Borke and Frau von Goltz; at one o'clock came home.'

'September 2.

'Read and worked all the morning. The Prince of Nassau and Count Seckendorf came to see me. The Princess had just returned from Helmstedt; I went to her for a few minutes, then to Court, where I played tradrille with Frau von Bredow, Count Borke, and Herr von Neumeister. I went to the Princess for supper, and at half-past ten came home.'

'September 3.

'I was alone the whole morning, and the afternoon with my husband and children; Baron von Pöllnitz came in the evening; we went with him to Court, where I played tradrille with Frau

von der Marwitz, Herr von Schwerin, and Count Lamberg. At supper I sat between Frau von Goltz and the Prince of Nassau.'

'September 4.

'I read "Cicero's Letters" all the morning, then the Princess of Prussia came with Frau von Wakenitz and Frau von Maupertuis, and I went with them to walk on the Fürsten Wall. Frau von Kraut and her husband, the Prince of Nassau, General Nugent, Frau von Knesebeck, Podewills, Pöllnitz, Fürst, and Bredow came at one o'clock and dined with us; the whole party were very cheerful, particularly Pöllnitz. After dinner we all played comet; later Colonel F. Müller, Goltz, Marwitz, Lamberg, and Wrede came. After tea at six o'clock they all went, and I dressed and went to Court, where there were few people because of two suppers at the Princess's and the Princess of Prussia's. I played tradrille, and at supper sat between Frau von Kraut and Frau von Fürst. Nothing but the war was spoken of, and at one o'clock I went home.'

'September 5.

'I wrote letters, then the pianist Schaffroth came and I played with him. At four o'clock I dressed and went to the assembly, where I played

tradrille with Frau von Kameke, Herr von Goltz, and Count Lehndorff. After the assembly I went to supper at the Princess's, where I played with Forcade, Wrede, and Goltz. There were no ladies besides us two, and of other gentlemen only Fürst, Blumenthal, and Lamberg. We were very merry and laughed a great deal, and at eleven o'clock I returned home.'

'September 6.

'Read all the morning; at eleven o'clock went out walking with my husband and Frau von Fürst. After dinner I dressed and went to the State concert: the music was very good. I played piquet with Fürst, Knesebeck, and Bredow; came home to tea, and in the evening again to Court, where I played tradrille, supped, and got home at eleven o'clock.'

'September 7.

'I went to church; Fürst and Bredow dined with us; after dinner we walked, and after tea I dressed and went to Court, where there were a great many people. I played comet with Lamberg and the Prince of Nassau, but did not remain to supper and came home early.'

'September 8.

'Rose at eight as usual, drank tea, and went to

the children ; then read my prayers, and afterwards had some music with Schaffroth. At one I dined with Frau von Knesebeck and Frau von Kraut at the Princess's at Rothensee, with only her ladies and gentlemen-in-waiting. After dinner we read aloud, then played bowls, and later piquet and tradrille. Towards seven o'clock we returned to town ; chatted a little, made up our rubbers again, then to supper, which lasted till eleven o'clock.'

'September 9.

'My son was unwell, but the doctor assured me that it was nothing of consequence. At eleven I went to Frau von Blumenthal, and from there to dine with Frau von Kraut, where I met Frau von Meyer, Count and Countess Finkenstein, Kreutz, and Pöllnitz. We were very lively at dinner ; in the afternoon Marshal Lamberg, the Prince of Elsingen, Nugent and Wrede came also. There was no card-playing, as usual ; we only chatted and joked. At five o'clock I came home and found my husband also just returned, having been hunting with Bredow, Goltz, Neumeister, and Marwitz, and we invited these gentlemen to sup with us. A few ladies came also ; tradrille was played first. Then

we sat down to table, and were very merry and cheerful.'

'September 10.

'At eight o'clock I drank tea, then coffee, and afterwards went to my children. My son is still no better, but I hope yet as the doctor assures me it is of no consequence. Schaffroth came, and I did some music with him. Then I went with my husband to the Queen, who had commanded our company to dinner. After dinner I called for Frau von Cocceji, and went with her to the assembly at Marshal Schmettau's; but my heart was sad and troubled for my dear child. I played piquet and stayed to supper, but I could not hold out to the end; came home, and went to the children.'

'September 11.

'Thank God! my son is quite well again today! As soon as I was dressed and my hair arranged I went to the Princess, who was very gracious to me; I dined with Frau von Kraut, whose birthday it is; Frau von Schmettau, Frau von Knesebeck, Prince Elsing, and Colonel Lillienberg were there also. All were very merry and in high spirits, and after coffee cards were played as usual. In the evening I went to the

Princess of Prussia's, where it was very full. I played comet with the young Prince of Prussia; at supper sat between Frau von Henckel and Prince Henry. At half-past ten I was at home, and could sleep to-day with my mind at ease and happy about my dear child.'

'September 12.

'Played with Schaffroth this morning till one o'clock, then we had people to dinner—Frau von Schmettau, Frau von Goltz, Herr and Frau von Bredow, Herr and Frau von Schwerin, Müller, Goltz, and Marwitz. Baron Müller was in such high spirits that he kept the whole party laughing. After coffee I dressed, and we all went together to a party at Count Lamberg's, where I made up a rubber with Frau von Kraut and the Prince of Nassau; it was very full. I went from there for a few minutes to the Princess and then to Court, where I played a rubber with Kraut and Herr von Tulner, who has only just arrived from the army. The Queen was out of humour, and complained much of the too great attentions shown to the foreign prisoners here; the consequence was that conversation flagged at table and could not be revived, and she broke up the party at half-past ten.'

September 13.

‘There is much anxiety as to the course of the war, especially concerning the frightful demands of the Prince of Württemberg, who is before Halle with six thousand men. Nothing is heard of the King’s army; a corps is said to have been detached to relieve the town of Kolberg, which is besieged by the Russians. Prince Henry has quarrelled with the King and is gone to Breslau. This afternoon we went to walk on the island, where Nugent and the Prince of Nassau joined us; as it began to get cold we went together to Frau von Kraut and played comet. At supper talked about some newly-published books, and the conversation was very lively and interesting.’

September 14.

‘I read a sermon with my husband, then dined with the Princess; after dinner played bowls, then worked and chatted with her till six o’clock; came home to dress and then went to Court, where it was very full. I played comet with the Princess, the young Prince of Prussia, and the Duke of Nassau. The Queen was in a very bad humour, but when Finkenstein began to tell old stories of Sweden, she smiled too at last, and kept us at table till eleven o’clock.’

‘September 15.

‘I spent the evening with Princess Amelia, and suffered as usual from her ill-humour.’

‘September 16.

‘The Princess drove to Rothensee, came to me, and wanted to take me with her ; but I could not go, as Schaffroth was with me, and I did music with him from ten to one o’clock. I spent the evening at the Princess of Prussia’s, where were also the young princes with their governors, and, besides them, Count Wartensleben, Count Biron, the Prince of Nassau, Cocceji, Neumeister, Bredow, and Geuder. I played comet with the Prince of Prussia, then we played commerce. Ah, how many days it is since any news have come from the King, and we know nothing of what is happening ! The Duke of Würtemberg alone is conspicuous at Halle by the atrocities he commits there, and the enormous contributions of money he enforces ; and it may well be said of him that he makes war like a highwayman.’

‘September 17.

‘In the afternoon to the assembly at Frau von Schmettau’s, in the evening with the Princess. Hardly had I got home and gone to bed than

Frau von Blumenthal's carriage came to fetch me, with her request that I should go to her, as she was just brought to bed. I went to her at once; the child was born at one o'clock, but I remained till the morning, as she could not sleep; in other respects, thank God, she was doing very well.'

'September 18.

'I remained till eleven o'clock with my patient, and meant only to go home to change my clothes, but, unfortunately, I met the Queen on the way, who was just going out driving, and who made me get into the carriage with her, and kept me till one o'clock. I was only then able to go home and dress, went back to dine with Frau von Blumenthal, and remained with her till ten o'clock in the evening.'

'September 19.

'I went at eight o'clock this morning to the invalid, where I also dressed and had my hair arranged, that I might remain till the last moment, when I had to go to the Queen's drawing-room; but I did not remain there for supper.'

'September 20.

'From the 20th till to-day I have been every

morning, as before, at eight o'clock to Frau von Blumenthal, and remained the whole day with her till the evening, when I had to go to the Queen. To-day was the christening, at which the whole Court in a body stood as sponsors. The ceremony lasted from four till five o'clock; then a very handsome collation was served, and every one seemed pleased. I remained, after all were gone, till the evening, and went then to the Princess of Prussia, where there were amateur theatricals. All were very cheerful, and the supper particularly lively and animated.'

'October 3.

'I have been unwell for a few days, but to-day am better, and have dined again with the Princess of Prussia. After dinner I went to the assembly, and then to Court, where I sat at supper between Count Borke and General F., who is only here for a few days. He was very unhappy at having to go away again to-morrow, and I was no less so for the same reason, and also about the bad news from the army and from Hülßen, whom the imperial and Würtemberg troops, after taking Torgau and Wittenberg, have now forced to retire to within thirty miles of us.

Every one trembles for Berlin, and we are very very anxious, and with good cause.'

'October 4.

'In the evening I was at Court, where all are in great trouble about Berlin, as the Russians are still advancing. At supper the Queen received a letter, which informed her that the Russians had the day before yesterday summoned Berlin to surrender; on receiving a refusal they had bombarded the town from early morning till seven in the evening, and then set fire to the city walls. The Queen did not mention to us one word of this, but I learnt it from her gentleman-in-waiting, and Frau von Cocceji wrote me a note immediately afterwards to give me more of the details. I could find no rest for my anxiety and fear about unfortunate Berlin and its unhappy inhabitants.'

'October 5.

'Sorrow for Berlin left me no sleep. Early in the morning came Frau von Schmettau, to tell me what she too had heard, and also that many shells had been thrown into the town, which had caused frightful devastation, but Field-Marshal Lewald and General Seydlitz were performing miracles of valour, and forcing the enemy back again. In

the evening I was with the Princess : the news is the same, nothing else was spoken of.'

'October 6.

'I arranged the card-tables this morning for the assembly, which takes place at our house to-day ; at four o'clock people began to come, and continued till it was very full. I myself only played for a few minutes, then gave up my cards to Frau Wakenitz and went to dress ; and as soon as the company was gone drove hastily to Court, where I acted in some theatricals with the "Beauty," the young Prince of Prussia, and Kraut. At supper I sat next to the Prince ; nothing was talked of but our dear Berlin ; the news had just come that the Russians had left it, and every one was wild with joy at this unexpected deliverance !'

'October 7.

'As usual every morning I read my prayers at eight o'clock, drank tea, visited my dear children, read the newspapers, and wrote to my mother. Then I had my hair dressed and went out walking with my husband ; afterwards dressed and received the people who came to dinner—Frau von Schmettau, Frau von Kost, Frau von Wakenitz, Bach and Thulmeier, the Prince of Nassau and Nugent.

After dinner I went to the Princess and then to the Princess of Prussia, where the Queen was playing comet with Count von der Mark,¹ Count Finkenstein, and General Goltz. I played with the eldest prince, the "beautiful fairy" and Lehndorff. The Queen told us that the Russians had again retired, but alas! it is known for certain that they are in Köpenick, that they have received reinforcements, and are now 15,000 strong. The Queen made out that they had already retreated through Fürsten Walde. She drove us to despair with her stories at table, and I was nearly dead with weariness, and delighted when at eleven o'clock I could at last go home.'

'October 8.

'I went to the assembly at Frau von Schmettau's, and played with General Gemmingen and the Swedish colonel. All the news which came by to-day's post repeated that the Russians surround Berlin, that they are 15,000 strong, and that they have already burnt the avenues outside the town, and unfortunately our garrison only numbers 1,500 men. I am in great anxiety about my

¹ The Counts von der Mark, an old family, which shortly afterwards died out, are not to be confounded with the descendants of Frederick William II., who received this name.

mother, of whom I know nothing. This evening I was at Court, where the same story was repeated, only it is still hoped that when Hülsen's corps advances further, they may again drive the Russians back. My heart was so oppressed and full of sorrow, that I scarcely heard what was said around me. When I got home, I went to bed, but could not close an eye. Anxiety and trouble kept me awake till morning.'

'October 9.

'The President Alvensleben and Torkelmann came to dinner with us. News has been received that Berlin is tolerably quiet, but a battle is expected in the neighbourhood.

'In the evening I was with the Princess of Prussia, and played with the young Prince of Prussia. Nothing was talked of at supper but our poor Berlin, and of the anxiety each felt in his heart.'

'October 10.

'Berlin has capitulated! It has surrendered to the enemy. Not to the Austrians, but to the Russians, in the night of the 8th-9th, and this unhappy news is unfortunately only too certain. When the Prince of Würtemberg and General Hülsen learnt that General Lascy with

8,000 men was advancing to support the Austrians, they left the town with their little band, and fell back upon Spandau. Todleben and the Austrian General Lascy moved into Berlin, and in the first place took possession of the gates and the King's palace. It is said that they have as yet kept good order. I hastened to the Princess, and myself spoke to the man who had come from Berlin and brought this news.'

'October 11.

'Nothing new is known from Berlin, and in all probability little will be learned at present. The Russians allow no communication with the town from outside, and allow no more posts to go out, so that nothing further can be learnt but doubtful rumours. My husband says the best plan would be to leave here. He went to Herr Köppen, where he learnt that early to-day a council had been held. All precautionary measures are taken and letters written to Brunswick, to know whether, in case of necessity, the Royal treasure could be sent there ; and, should the situation become more serious, whether the Court could take refuge there. But at present there is no thought of breaking up here, and we shall remain as long as it is possible to do so.

‘ After dinner arrived the Jew Ephraim, who had left Berlin only a few hours before the Russians marched in. He assured us we were still secure here. Had there been any danger to Magdeburg he would not have come here, but would have left the country with his valuables.

‘ In the evening I was with the Princess, who was very angry with Kraut, and rightly so, for out of economy he had put tallow instead of wax lights in her ante-room, with which she was extremely offended.’

‘ October 12.

‘ At church, where Pastor Sucrow preached a wonderful sermon. He said in the most impressive and affecting manner, that in the tribulations which had come upon us, and especially in our present misfortune, we should above all think earnestly of our sins, and seek our help through God alone, putting ourselves into his hands, giving ourselves up to his will ; looking for all our happiness and all our comfort in his mercy, and in that only. Ah ! how happy should we be could we but take this really to heart, and could we but succeed in tearing ourselves from the world and its vanities.

‘ In the afternoon a great waggon arrived from

our property in Mecklenburg, bringing stores, game, and kitchen necessaries of all sorts, also letters, which told us what a number of people had already fled from Berlin to Strelitz.

‘Then came a courier from Perleberg with the news that the Swedes had begun to retreat, and that probably the road from here to Mecklenburg would soon be closed to us. My husband thinks the best plan would be to send me away with the children while the road is still open ; but I cannot bear the idea. In the evening I went to Court, where there were a great many people. All the Princesses were there, and Fräulein von Keyferling, who has always got her head full of nonsense, talked of nothing but dress and toilette, and made me very impatient. Frau von Goltz seems very anxious and uneasy ; I begged her, in case we must leave here, to go with us into the country, and she thankfully accepted the offer. The Queen talked as incessantly and positively as usual. She said, “Berlin had not capitulated ; there had been dissension amongst our Generals ; the Prince of Würtemberg had in consequence suddenly left Berlin, and that had enabled the Russians to get in, which, strange to say, they had done in good order.” The latter would certainly

not have been the case had no capitulation taken place, or conditions been made.

‘It is still believed that Lascy’s corps is not in Berlin itself, and that it has only been said to deceive us. It is said that Todleben is living in the Royal palace, but as there is no post from Berlin these are all mere rumours.’

‘October 13.

‘I went as usual in the evening to Court ; my husband supped at Princess Amelia’s. During the whole time the Queen talked uninterruptedly and about the war only, assuring us that she alone knew with certainty the movements of the army. Frau von Roeder told me afterwards that an officer had come from Berlin, who also said that it had not capitulated, but notwithstanding the Russians still kept good discipline. Wunsch’s battalion had suffered terribly in the retreat of our troops to Spandau, only seven men remaining alive of the whole battalion. Ah! how much blood has been shed in this frightful war, and how all must long and daily implore God for its termination.’

‘October 14.


‘I went to Knesebeck to the “pretty fairy’s,” who had invited us to coffee. An old French

fortune-teller came there, and we were persuaded to have our fortunes told by her, but she only talked a great deal of nonsense, constantly assuring us that we should soon have good news. It is to be hoped that she spoke the truth there. Then came Count Wartensleben, and played the fool as usual. At home I was received with the unexpected good news that the Russians had left Berlin on the 12th. The reason of their sudden departure is the fear of the approach of the King, who is said to be advancing from Silesia. This news has startled them, and they have only taken 17,000 thalers with them. So writes Kircheisen from Berlin, to Finkenstein, by a courier. They had only been three days in the town when the rumour of the King's approach again drove them away. Lascy and Todleben each left the town by opposite sides.

'I went to Court and played comet with the Prince of Prussia, "Bella Fea," and Schwerin, although that perpetual card-playing was intolerably hard to me to-day. It is said that Princess Amelia came to the Princess at dinner-time, bringing her own dinner with her, in order to play Marshal Kraut a trick, he having struck out two dishes from the Princess's bill of fare.'

‘October 15.

‘The Princess sent for me at nine o’clock in the morning, and kept me with her till eleven. She was so happy and full of joy over the retreat of the Russians and the release of Berlin that she heaped upon me a thousand little attentions and kindnesses, as, in fact, she always did. I have never seen a Princess who is so thoroughly and truly, as she is, the friend of her friends, never changing her behaviour towards them. When I returned home I had a great deal of writing to do; then came dinner for my husband and myself alone, as the children had not been good, and, as a punishment, were not to dine with us. After dinner they were sent for and admonished. The secretary whom my husband had lately taken, and who came to us to-day from the neighbourhood of Berlin, told us how wrong the Generals had been to give way to the Austrians, and that the retreat of the Prince of Würtemberg had been deplorably conducted, which we were very sorry to hear. In the evening I was at Court. The Queen had just received an express with the news that the Austrians had completely stripped Charlottenburg and Schönhausen, and everybody in both palaces had been either killed



or ill-treated. Soon after the post from Berlin again arrived, and many people received letters, all complaining in the bitterest manner of the Austrians, who had committed the most frightful destruction, whilst the Russians before them had conducted themselves so extremely well. All the people who had been in the King's service, whom the enemy could get hold of, were either killed or frightfully ill-treated; the furniture, pictures, antiques, and works of art in the Royal palaces broken, thrown out of window, and strewn about; in short, what they could not steal and carry with them, they burnt, ruined, and destroyed; took the horses in the Royal stables, and all the carriages with them, and even everything belonging to the poor Master of the horse, Schwerin, who lived at the Royal mews. They also destroyed or cleared out the treasuries, store-houses, granaries, and magazines. This news spread such sorrow on every side that no one could think of anything else. It hurt the more that every letter repeated that the Russians had conducted themselves as honourable people and honourable enemies, whilst the Austrians and Saxons, on the contrary, which latter had especially made havoc in Charlottenburg, had behaved like barbarians and

common thieves. Good God! how many people have been rendered poor and miserable through these acts of violence. If this war lasts much longer, the list of the wretched people who have lost everything will soon be so great that there will be no one left in a position to assist them.'

'October 17.

'In the evening I was with the Princess, where we heard the news that the King is now advancing from Guben, has already reached Sagau, and they are now expecting an encounter with the enemy and a fresh battle. Since their retreat from Berlin the Russians have fallen back upon Frankfort, where it is said the main body of their army is stationed, and it is believed that the King will turn off there to attack them. May God give us the victory, glory to our arms, and peace to our country!

'Constant news arrives of the destruction, barbarities, and outrages which the Austrians have committed round Berlin and the entire neighbourhood, whilst there is only one opinion as to the good and humane way in which the Russians have behaved, and the wonderful order General Todleben has kept.'

‘October 19.

‘I was at church. Pastor Sucrow preached a very beautiful sermon. I then read the history of Louis XIII. On the way I met the Prince of Nassau and Nugent, and told them how infamously the Austrians had behaved to us. In the middle of the day I received the sorrowful news that Schönfliess also had been set upon and plundered by the Austrians, but happily my poor mother was no longer there. My brother’s property, Stülpe, has not been destroyed, but a large sum of money had to be paid to buy it off. God knows how this loss and all misfortune that touches my mother troubles me. Lascy devastated the country terribly in his retreat; the Austrians stripped everything, they even plundered the dead bodies in the family vaults. In the evening I went to Court, and played with the young Prince of Prussia and “Bella Fea,” but my heart and my thoughts were elsewhere.’

‘October 21.

‘At last I received a letter from my poor mother, who is luckily now in Strelitz, but sadly laments that the Cossacks had been twice to Schönfliess and had treated the people very badly. At the same time my husband received a letter

from his brother, who sends him a manifesto published by General Werner, in Schwerin, in which he imposes a tax upon Mecklenburg, and says he can henceforth only look upon it as a hostile country. As the Duke of Schwerin has had the folly to place himself at the head of the Prussian enemies at Ratisbon, his country must pay for it by taxes and contributions. I wrote at once to the wife of the agent of our property at Gross-Giewitz, and my husband sent his private secretary there, to whom I gave my letter. I was with the Princess at dinner and supper, and she was as usual very, very kind and gracious.'

'October 22.

'Lieutenant Heinitz, General von Stutterheim's aide-de-camp, came to pay his respects to us, and to tell me that the Prince of Würtemberg had received orders to go at once to Mecklenburg, and that the General would follow him and take up his winter quarters there. I fear that our property will suffer a great deal from the requisitions and demand for supplies.'

'October 23.

'As I learnt yesterday that the Prince of Würtemberg's corps will march through here, as the Duke wants to drive his brother, who is with

the Imperial army, out of Saxony, I got up earlier than usual to see the troops march in. Schorlemmer's regiment was the first that passed through the town, then came Kleist's hussars, fine-looking men, as well as the dragoons, and both very well mounted. We went ourselves and invited Colonel Kleist to dinner ; he came at once with us, and we were very glad to see him again. Our dinner was very lively, but was more than once interrupted. He had to send Schmettau out to meet the General ; then came Hülsen's corps, marching through the town ; and every minute for some reason or another we had to get up from table. The poor men of this corps looked very tired, but they had a very fine appearance, and we saw all the regiments belonging to it march past us one after the other. General Kleist also, who was once here in garrison, came to us, and later in the day arrived another portion of the Prince of Würtemberg's corps, that is, the infantry, as his cavalry had been the first to march through the town. The Prince himself looked fairly well, but he has grown very thin and aged. The last regiment marched through late in the evening, and it was midnight before they were all in their quarters. It went to my heart, after all the

fatigue and privations these poor, poor people have suffered. Lastly, Herr von Buddenbrock came with the others to tea with us. He is now aide-de-camp to the Prince of Würtemberg, and we begged him to look a little after our poor property in Mecklenburg.'

'October 24.

'I got up at five o'clock and put my habit on, to see the troops once more, and accompany them a little way. At half-past five came our friend Kleist the hussar, with his brother of the *gens-d'armes*. They had tea and then coffee with us. Later came Frau von Schmettau, and we chatted together till nearly eight o'clock, when the officers had unfortunately to leave. I gave up my ride for the sake of Frau von Schmettau, and drove with her to see the regiments march out. As we came to the gate of the town, we saw the smoke and flames of a burning village in the distance. We were already very much afraid of being too late to see the troops again, and indeed they had already started, but we were able to overtake them. Kleist galloped up to our carriage; his brother also came, sent for Frau von Schmettau's son, and advised us to get out and go with him into a mill, which lay close to the burning village. I

think it was called Doderdorf. The dragoons had spent the night there, and very likely one of the soldiers had unintentionally set it on fire. It was a sad sight. Everything was in flames, only a few houses and the church could be saved. We remained a little while all together in the mill—it was a short but happy and never to be forgotten moment. Frau von Schmettau and I each gave Kleist the hussar a locket for his watch as a remembrance, and I promised him to compose a march for his regiment and to send it to him. At last we had to part, and after having given our good wishes to our friends, we left them. Ah! with what heavy hearts—to see them go forth to encounter danger and perhaps death! What a terrible war, and how terrible it is to stand quietly by and see so many men go to their destruction. May the merciful God preserve my poor friends and take them under his almighty protection! We went sorrowfully and silently back to Magdeburg, and in the afternoon I set to work to compose the march I had promised.'

'October 25.

'I prepared myself for the Holy Communion, and went early with my husband to the church. At twelve o'clock we went again, for the second

time, and Pastor Sucrow gave us a very beautiful and edifying prayer. When I returned home I performed my devotions, and remained the rest of the day quietly in my own room.'

'October 26.

'I went to church at eight o'clock, and the ladies of the late Queen, who also wished to communicate, came into our seat. When I returned home I repeated my prayers and devotional exercises. After dinner we again went to church, and heard a very beautiful and edifying sermon.'

'October 27.

'After I had said my prayers Schaffroth came to me, and I wrote out a fair copy of the march I composed the day before yesterday for Colonel Kleist. In the evening I went to Court, where the union which had taken place between the King and General Hülsen was much talked of, and the number of prisoners Colonel Kleist had already made in Köthen.'

'October 29.

'I wrote to Kleist, and sent him the march which I had composed for him.'

'October 30.

'I wrote to my mother to conjure her to come

here to us. 'Then I read all the newspapers that had come, and remained the whole day quietly at home. In the evening I went to the Princess's, where were a great many people. I played piquet with the Prince of Prussia, Legrand, and Wakenitz. At supper I sat between the Prince and Count Henckel, but I was bored, and could not talk.'

'October 31.

'I made my little Caroline, who is now nearly six years old, read me the tragedy of Penelope, to give her early a taste for such literature; then after dinner went to the assembly, and in the evening to the Princess.'

'November 1.

'I wrote to Count Solms. Then came a lieutenant of Colonel Kleist's regiment, bringing us greetings from him, which I was much pleased with. In the evening I was with the Queen, and played with her, Count Camore, and Count Goltz.'

'November 2.

'I went to church to hear Pastor Sucrow, who gave us a wonderful sermon. We had invited the lieutenant of hussars to dinner, and he told us many wonderful and touching episodes of the last

war, particularly of the events and occurrences in his regiment. He spoke very highly of Colonel Kleist, whom he seems to respect very much. In the evening I went to Court. It was tremendously crowded. All the Princesses were there, even the Margrave Henry's little daughter.'

'November 5.

'A courier brought us news at midday that the King had defeated Daun at Torgau. We were beside ourselves with joy. My husband and I hastened at once to the Queen to wish her joy, and found all the Princesses already there. I spoke myself to the courier. He was a rifleman, and he told us that the action had commenced about two o'clock in the afternoon of the 3rd, and continued far on into the night. Our gain by this victory was inestimable; the King had taken a number of guns and colours, and made many prisoners. The King had himself written a few words to Finkenstein, and said we should have detailed news in a few days. The universal rejoicings were quite indescribable. God grant that this glorious victory may bring matters to a decisive end! We had only the death of Count Anhalt to lament. At the same time we heard of the death of King George II. of England, who

had had an attack of apoplexy on the 25th of the preceding month whilst he was drinking his chocolate. He was seventy-seven years of age. This Prince will be much missed and lamented, and I am afraid that his death will have a very disastrous and unfortunate effect upon our affairs. Count Finkenstein says, indeed, that it is not so, but he is a Minister and a good diplomatist, so that what he says is not of much account, and discloses nothing of his real hopes and fears.'

'November 7.

'Young Cocceji, who is going as courier to England, came to take leave. He told me that the battle of Torgau had been terribly sanguinary for friends and foes alike. The Austrians had lost, in dead, wounded, and prisoners, 15,000 men, and we nearly 7,000, which is unfortunately a great loss to us. The Princess's ladies came to see Cocceji, and he went with them to the Queen. In the evening everybody went to Court to wish the Queen joy on her birthday. The tradespeople contrived a serenade in her honour on the ramparts.'

'November 9.

'Everybody went to church, where the Te Deum was sung in honour of the victory. In the

evening there were great fireworks. At the Princess's there was a dinner in honour of Princess Amelia's birthday.'

'November 10.

'I went to see Countess Kannenberg, who had just arrived with her husband. Then I went to Court, where was celebrated the wedding of Fräulein Keyferling and Herr von Alvensleben. The bride wore a white silk dress brocaded with silver, which was neither pretty nor rich; neither did I think she looked well, but as pert and conceited as usual. The supper was terribly wearisome, and afterwards they danced in a circle in honour of the bridal wreaths, which fell to the lot of young Fräulein Biedersee and the Prince of Nassau. The bride took leave of the Court without showing much feeling or emotion. Count Wartensleben and the eldest Fräulein Baud, as bridesman and bride's-maid, escorted her home, and the whole company went with them.'

'November 11.

'I went to congratulate the newly-married couple, and found a great many people there. In the afternoon I went to the assembly, and in the evening to the Princess of Prussia's, where it was

very wearisome. But at supper I was lucky enough to sit between Prince Henry and Thulmeier, the latter of whom is very clever.

‘We talked of friendship and love; Thulmeier asserted that, independently of the happiness or grief that might come to us from either of them, it was a joy and delight in itself to experience such a feeling, and I maintained the contrary; for what in this world causes one greater sorrow or pain than love?’

‘November 13.

‘My husband went out hunting, and I dined with the Princess and her two ladies alone. After dinner, when she had dismissed her ladies, I sent for my little one, and when Caroline had been sent home again we remained alone together till the evening. The Princess read aloud to me from a new book, “Le nouveau Spectateur,” and then she was so good as to allow me to read her diary, which is very prettily written, and in which were a number of things that interested me, and some that touched me deeply. We drank tea together, and she loaded me as usual with kindness and goodness.’

‘November 14.

‘I went to Court, but I was only most fright-

fully bored there. It really was a terrible evening for everybody, but I think no one was so despairing as I, who of all things in the world hate and avoid being bored.'

'November 28.

'Frau von Schmettau came to take leave ; then we had the assembly at our house, and the Princess was so good as to appear. My joy at her unexpected entrance was great, the more so as I had no idea that she would have done me this honour. In the evening I was at Court, but did not remain long, as my husband had writing to do and was not with me there.'

'November 29.

'In the evening as usual to Court, where the company was pretty numerous. I played taroc with the Princess, the Prince of Prussia, and the Prince of Nassau, and at supper sat by the Queen.'

'November 30.

'I walked with the Princess, and then dined with her and her ladies. After dinner I sent for my little girl, whose liveliness seemed to amuse her. Then she read to me the tragedy of Zaïre, and afterwards we did some music together. Her ladies came back to supper, and we were

very gay and lively, for the Princess is really irresistibly cheerful and amiable.'

'December 4.

'I read Queen Christina of Sweden's letters; in the evening went to Court as usual, played with "Bella Fea," the Prince of Prussia, and Lehn-dorff. The English ambassador, Mr. Mitchell, came, and the Queen received him very graciously. He comes from Glogan, and intends returning to the King, who is now marching upon Saxony.'

'December 5.

'In the evening with the Princess; I found here two newly-arrived Englishmen, Sir — Ruet and Lord Hope, whom Mitchell presented to her; I sat at table between Lord Hope and Humboldt, and the supper was very lively.'

'December 6.

'A dinner at Finkenstein's, where I sat between Mitchell and Lord Hope, and which lasted till five o'clock. At seven a soirée at the Princess of Prussia's, where all the Princes and Princesses were present. I played with the Princess and the Englishmen, and at supper again sat between Mitchell and Hope.'

'December 7.

'We had the whole company to dinner, the

Englishmen and the rest, and we were very fairly pleasant.'

'December 11.

'Young Finkenstein, who has been sent here from Prince Ferdinand's regiment to recover from his wounds, came to see me in the evening at the Princess of Prussia's, where Princess Amelia by her usual want of tact put us to some confusion. Among other things she said to the Prince of Nassau that she recommended Berlin to his mercy, in case he should ever return as an enemy, and the capital should again be besieged by the Austrians !

'Count Finkenstein goes to-morrow to join the King at Leipzig. Cocceji has just returned from England, and does not seem much edified with the behaviour of the ladies in London.'

'December 15.

'The assembly was at our house again to-day, and three newly-arrived prisoners of war were introduced to me—Captain du Verger, Count Grass, and Colonel von Raven, all three very agreeable people ; and then a French general, St. Iquem, already somewhat advanced in years, and who seems to have seen a great deal of the world.'

‘ December 24.

‘ My husband went to the assembly. I remained at home to arrange my children’s Christmas presents. When they were in bed I went late in the evening to Court, and fortunately found the Princess still there, who alone seems to have the faculty of keeping up lively and cheerful conversation in those rooms. All the Princes went yesterday to the King at Leipzig.’

‘ December 31.

‘ Never to me has time passed so wearily and heavily as now. I went to the assembly, where all the Austrians were, and in the evening to the Princess, where we had a cheerful supper party. We had a lottery of little notes with New Year’s prophecies, all written by the Princess herself, and each one cleverer, wittier, and prettier than the last.’

‘ January 1, 1761.

‘ With the children to the little Princesses, and in the evening to Court.’

‘ January 9.

‘ I spent the morning at the piano, went after dinner to the assembly, where the “ Divina ” was, and played faro ; in the evening at the Queen’s played taroc. The Prince of Nassau talked a

great deal to me about the "Divina," and raved about her, and I told him that this was the only case in which an excess of admiration was pardonable !'

' January 12.

'I wrote and received quite a heap of letters. The assembly was at our house ; I played with the "Divina," the Prince of Nassau, and Baron Kress. A number of newly-arrived prisoners were introduced. In the evening at Court ; the Princes were again there, and all very much pleased and satisfied with their visit to the King.'

' January 16.

'I received a quantity of letters. Then came Count Schwerin, who has been exchanged for Count Putoff by the Austrians. He is quite his old self, talked to me a great deal about Vienna, where he spent five days on his journey, admires the Empress greatly, and the Emperor very little. We went together to the assembly, where only faro was played, and then to Court, where it was very full. I heard from Berlin of the marriage of Count Blumenthal with the daughter of General Wartensleben.'

' January 25.

'I went to a *Café coiffé* at the "Divina's," but

even there it was dull and tiresome. In the evening the Prince of Nassau gave a great supper, at which the "Divina" and I were both present. We first played faro, and after supper blindman's buff; we were very lively, and did not break up till two o'clock in the morning.'

'February 1.

'An officer of Kleist's regiment of hussars dined with us. In the evening, as usual, at Court; I talked a great deal to the Prince of Nassau about the Princess, and exhorted him to prudence.'

'February 4.

'In the evening at Court. The poor Queen was frightfully out of humour, and said some really dreadful things. Her ill-temper is a terrible fault in her. She always wants every one to flatter her and agree with her in everything, and all conversation with her, in consequence, is as difficult as it is disagreeable.'

'February 8.

'The "Divina's" two ladies-in-waiting were with me till dinner-time; then we all went to dine with Finkenstein, where there were a great many people; amongst them Gemmingen, Nugent, Humboldt, Geuder, and four newly-arrived Austrians.

After dinner came more Austrian officers, who were introduced to us, and then all played faro. The Queen was there too, and at dinner made some very warm observations about the unfavourable opinions and reports that were being spread about her Court. I do not know what she could mean, excepting some silly gossip here, which ought not to be listened to, far less taken notice of. However, she did not cease to scold, and to declare that the people who had received most attention from her were those who most laughed at and derided her; in short, she unfortunately said a number of things which were very awkward for us, and very improper and little suited to a Queen. I spoke with good Frau von Knesebeck about the *Toute divine* and the Prince of Nassau. He is madly in love with her, and if she does not take care this man's passion may cause her much annoyance. Princess Amelia's character is unfortunately well known; if she should ever discover the Prince's attachment, she of all people would cause endless embarrassment and trouble to our poor *Fée*. There are enough people besides who from envy do not love the "Divina," and she has every reason to be a thousand times more prudent than any other woman. The

mere thought of what messengers are in the
 one single momentary act of the day is
 quite ordinary.

"In the evening we were invited to
 out dining with her to have a dinner
 with Princess Arina: she was very kind
 We arrived at her house, where we
 served, and then we had a very
 we returned: after dinner I went to the
 and in the evening we all dined at home.
 How happy they were that evening—I
 wished it could be repeated."

"In the evening all went to the
 the Prince of Nassau will soon be
 in love than ever will it be told. But happily
 this cannot go on much longer as it is daily
 expected that he will be exchanged and then he
 must go."

"February 17"

"I went to the rehearsal of a little pastoral
 comedy, which is to be acted the evening before
 the "Divina's" birthday, and in which I have pro-
 mised to dance. I dined with the Princess and
 spent the afternoon alone with her. We went

out walking together, and she was so good as to call for my little Caroline, and keep her with her for an hour. Amongst other things we spoke of men's characters, and her remarks were not very flattering. She is certainly a charming woman, worthy of all admiration, and one cannot love her enough!

'In the evening we went to the Queen, where we had a very pretty concert. Good news came; it is said that Prince Xavier of Saxony's corps has been defeated.'

'February 21.

'In the evening at Court; the Princess was there too. The Queen showed marked coolness towards her; God knows what she may have imagined about the poor thing, and the supper was consequently not very lively.'

'February 22.

'I went early with the children to Frau von Meyer, that they might rehearse their parts. The little girl is to represent Love, who presents the bouquet to the Princess, the boy, a shepherd boy, who gives her the book. In the afternoon I went again with the children to the ladies-in-waiting; the whole company of actors assembled, and we had a last dress-rehearsal on the stage, which, how-

ever, went so badly that very little could be expected from the performance. At six o'clock Kraut went down to the Princess and asked her to come upstairs, without letting her know what it was for. The moment she came up, the curtain rose and the chorus began to sing, then the ballet was danced; the dancers were dressed some as shepherds and shepherdesses, some as gardeners and flower-girls, and I was dressed as one of the latter. Immediately after the ballet began the piece; the Prince of Nassau was Bastien, Frau von Meyer, Bastienne; Schwerin was Colas, and Frau von Schwerin the countrywoman; this was interrupted by a second ballet, and another took place at the end. The Princess was delighted with this little performance, and as gracious as possible towards all of us. After supper we masked ourselves and were very gay and lively, dancing till three o'clock in the morning.'

'February 23.

'A great dinner at Princess Amelia's in honour of the "Divina's" birthday. From there we went to Court, but I did not remain long, and then had a supper party at home for the Princess.'

'March 1.

'To-day a solemn Te Deum was sung in the

churches, in honour of the victory gained by our troops and those of the allies over the French. After dinner the Princess came to me, and did me the honour to remain with me till we went together to Court in the evening. This dear and charming Princess is really touchingly kind and good to me.'

'March 4.

'In the afternoon with the Princess; we spoke much of religion, of death, and the little reason people have to cling so much to a life that is mostly filled with pain and sorrow. In the evening we went together to Court; at supper I sat between the Princess of Prussia and *la belle fée*.'

'March 5.

'The Princess gave a little entertainment, to see us once more in the dresses of the play that we had performed for her birthday. We went to her at six o'clock; I was again dressed as a flower-girl, and found the Princess in an exactly similar costume, in which she really looked wonderfully pretty; Princess Wilhelmina was dressed as a Tyrolean, and the Princes in dominos. We danced and were very merry till nearly morning.

‘ March 8.

‘ Dined with the Princess ; she was alone with me and spoke much of the war, and that we might at last hope that peace must be concluded.’

‘ March 10.

‘ In the evening we were all at the Princess of Prussia’s ; the poor Queen was there too, but unfortunately again in a frightfully bad temper, which has quite taken possession of her for some time past ; and the supper was consequently very uncomfortable for all of us.’

‘ March 11.

‘ I was wakened this morning with the presents my husband sent me in honour of my birthday ; they were a packet containing money, a set of lace, and a gown of *Gros de la Tour*. He had besides invited company to dinner, and ordered music to come also, and we had a very cheerful dinner party. In the afternoon we all went to the assembly and then to the Princess, who had arranged a charming concert in my honour. After supper the whole party came back to us, and we danced till three o’clock. The Prince of Nassau alone retired earlier, as the adored of his heart was not there.’

‘ March 15.

‘ A concert at Princess Amelia’s; a monk, who has been sent here as a hostage, played the violin beautifully.’

‘ March 18.

‘ My poor husband had bad news from Gross-Giewitz; requisitions are being made for the army in that neighbourhood; every proprietor must deliver up his stores of corn and field produce, and whoever will not or cannot satisfy the demands made upon him is threatened with an execution.’

‘ March 20.

‘ I went to church and heard Pastor Küster preach, then remained at home for the rest of the day.’

‘ March 21.

‘ I performed my devotional exercises, and read a religious book till one o’clock; then we both went to church, to prepare for the Holy Communion to-morrow. The rest of the day I remained alone and read religious books.’

‘ March 22.

‘ I went to church and to the Lord’s Supper; Pastor Sucrow preached. The rest of the day I

remained at home; Frau von Knesebech and Frau von Bredow, who had also attended to their devotions to-day, spent the evening with me.'

'March 27.

'A young Hüseler came to us from Berlin. Nothing is spoken of in the whole town but the misfortunes of his father, whom the King has sent to a fortress, because he would not sign some bond. The allies are said to be in a bad way; the sieges of Cassel and Marburg are to be raised, and it is much feared that the French will again advance.'

'April 9.

'I wanted for once to spend the whole day quietly with the children, and begged my husband to go alone to a dinner at the "Divina's," where the Queen was to be, and to make my excuses. But after dinner the former sent to beg me to go to her for a little while, and when I went I found her quite alone and somewhat suffering besides, and spent a wonderfully pleasant and agreeable evening with her. I like her even better when she is alone than when she is in society.'

'April 10.

'I have been reading the "Nouvelle Héloïse," a book which has just been published, and which

describes with a rare and peculiar eloquence the feelings of friendship and of love. Certainly love causes the heroine of the book to commit an unpardonable error ; and yet one is inclined to forgive her fault in consideration of her repentance and of the good qualities she shows in her later life. Some passages in the book are really worthy of being read and considered.'

' April 12.

' We went to the convent to see two nuns take the veil. It was a most touching sight, and I am very sorry for the poor girls.'

' April 15.

' Count Finkenstein went away yesterday with the whole Cabinet, to meet the King at Leipzig, and people hope and conclude in consequence that perhaps negotiations for peace are already set on foot. It is said also that a congress is to take place at Augsburg, to conclude a general European peace. Oh ! my God, what happiness !'

' April 20.

' Solms and Hesse arrived and came to see me ; later Spérandieu also, the late Prince of Prussia's gentleman-in-waiting. Ah ! how sadly and painfully he reminded me of those far-off

days, so long past yet never to be forgotten! In the evening we were at Princess Amelia's, who always has the wildest ideas. She wants the gentlemen to be dressed as ladies at the next party which she gives, and has arranged this foolish masquerade for next Wednesday.'

'April 21.

'I took a long walk with the "Divina;" she proposed to me to go with her to Helmstadt, and I was delighted at this charming plan; then we discussed the difficult characters of the Queen and the Princess Amelia. In the evening I went to the Princess of Brunswick's.'

'April 22.

'All went to-day to Princess Amelia's, who really had insisted that the gentlemen should appear as ladies and the ladies as gentlemen. She herself was dressed as a priest! I wore a riding-dress with a round man's wig, and Countess Finkenstein did the same. The Prince of Nassau and Wrede were really entirely in women's dress, but both furious over their unsuitable attire. Geuder came as a maid very comically got up. After supper appeared music, and dancing was intended, but it did not succeed: people soon gave it up and sat down to the card-tables, and

so this foolish entertainment ended pretty early in the evening.'

'May 4.

'We had Solms and Hesse to dine with us, and the new governor of the town, whom I like pretty well. In the evening we went to the "Divina," where we found the Princess of Prussia and the Princes of Brunswick.'

'May 5.

'General Doltrop dined with us; people say he is to be sent to Augsburg, and he therefore wished to speak to Finkenstein; besides him the Prince of Nassau, General Bülow, Finkenstein, and another prisoner, an Englishman from the allied army, who is also named Nugent.'

'May 9.

'We had a dinner at the "Divina's" at Rothensee, at which only the Court was present. After dinner we played commerce; towards evening the company returned to town, and we remained to supper with the "Divina."'

'May 10.

'Went to church; dined with *la belle fée*, of whom I took leave as I have to start for Gross-Giewitz. In the evening at Court, where after supper I took my leave of the Queen. I did not

go to bed, and at one o'clock we set out, my husband and I, and Schwerin.'

'May 14.

'Although we left Wittstock at five o'clock in the morning, and travelled the whole day without any rest, we only arrived at Gross-Giewitz late in the evening. Notwithstanding the late hour we began at once to wander about the garden, which Schwerin was enchanted with, and after supper we were all glad to go to bed.'

'May 15.

'In spite of all fatigue I was dressed and out by eight o'clock. We breakfasted together and took a long and beautiful walk. After dinner the clergyman's wife came to see me, and a number of ladies from the neighbourhood. Then we made an excursion into the country, and Schwerin was very entertaining.'

'May 16.

'This morning I held a thorough inspection of the household ; at dinner we had Count Ysenburg, brother-in-law of Count Lehndorff, who commands the Lehwald regiment. He told us all the follies that were done here under Kleist's directions, from which the whole country now

suffers. This evening my mother-in-law and my sister-in-law Rochow von Stülpe arrived, and we were very glad to see them both again after so long an absence.'

' May 17.

' After dinner we took a long walk, then kept up conversation till supper time. Oertzen, Maltzahn, Bülow, and Klinkgräf came to dinner, but went away again at night.'

' May 18.

' We hear that the Prince of Würtemberg is happily leaving Mecklenburg again, and going with his troops towards Pomerania. I took leave of my mother-in-law late this evening, as she starts very early to-morrow morning, and will not allow me to get up for her.'

' May 19.

' When I awoke, my mother-in-law and sister-in-law had already been gone some time. We made a little excursion in the neighbourhood, and passed the day very pleasantly.'

' May 20.

' The weather was beautiful ; the clergyman and his wife came to dinner ; we dined in the garden, and took a long beautiful walk in the evening.'

‘May 21.

‘We started at dawn, and yet only arrived at Rheinsberg at eight o’clock, as the roads were horrible. Notwithstanding the rain we went at once to see the castle and garden, the latter of which is still charming. Herr von Reisewitz, who lives here, invited us to supper, and was civil enough also to put us up for the night.’

‘May 22.

‘I rose at three, dressed hastily, and went to the castle in the grey of the morning. After wandering for a long time alone in these dear and loved gardens so full of indescribably sweet recollections, I went back, and at six o’clock we continued our journey, and at eight in the evening arrived at Havelberg, where my brother-in-law and his wife received us most warmly.’

‘May 24.

‘At three this morning we resumed our journey. On our way we stopped at Tangermünde and at Rogätz for refreshments, and are now again happily in Magdeburg. Thank God, the children are well and blooming! Schwerin and Bredow came to supper, and we heard to my great joy that Count Schwerin has got the Guards, and that Möllendorf has been made a General.’

‘May 25.

‘I went to the Princess, and rejoiced that in accordance with her wishes I am to go with her to Helmstadt in a few days. Then I went with her to the Queen, sat at supper next to the Prince of Nassau, and had a very pleasant conversation with him.’

‘May 28.

‘At two o’clock this morning I went to the Princess and started with her and her gentlemen and ladies. At nine we were at Helmstadt; we all breakfasted together, and then the Princess retired to her room for a little while. Her two ladies and I were lodged all three together in one immense room. Our host and entertainer, General von Ledebur, was presented to the Princess—a ponderous old creature, who bored us dreadfully, and gave us plenty of occasion for laughter; then came Princess Charlotte with her governess, Frau von Winzingerode, and her gentleman-in-waiting, Herr von Frankenburg. The sisters were delighted to meet again; Princess Charlotte has grown very nice-looking, graceful, and amiable. After dinner we went into the garden, where we played commerce under the trees; at six o’clock drank

tea there, and late in the evening had supper there also.'

'May 29.

'*Déjeuner* with the Princesses; then two young Counts, Solms and Platen, who have just arrived, were presented; later young Veltheim came from Brunswick, and a young Maltzahn in the Landgrave's body-guard, to pay their respects to the Princess. We went to look on at the students' infantry-drill, which amused me very much, and in the evening all the students came to give three cheers for the Princesses, and cheered us three ladies also plentifully! There were over two hundred students, who marched past two and two; all held in their hands blazing torches, and to wind up they threw them on to a small bonfire that had been erected before the house. They made a magnificent fire, and the students stood round in a circle, and sang a Latin song which sounded very pretty.'

'May 31.

'Herr von Veltheim von Harpke came to dinner, with his nephew, who has just returned from France. The former is a worthy and excellent man, whom I have long known and like very

much. A Count Görtz, of the Landgrave's guard, also dined with us, a very handsome man, who seems to be very pleasant also ; and a Fräulein von Heinitz, a wonderfully pretty person. The dinner, like all our dinners here, was extremely gay and lively. General Ledebur was the only person who did not seem to find it so ; but the postmaster, on the other hand, was delightful, and seemed to enjoy his position. He is the most ridiculous mortal that I have seen for a long time, speaks frightfully bad French, and has taken it into his head never under any circumstances to speak a word of German. In the evening the students gave us a concert, that was remarkably good. We had supper in the garden, and played blindman's buff till midnight ; afterwards some duets were sung, and we amused ourselves immensely.'

' June 1.

' While at breakfast with the Princesses, a letter was brought me with the postmaster's signature ; but, in spite of the horrible French in which it was written, I soon discovered that it came from one of our gentlemen. I answered immediately, but in German, and the Princesses and the others each put in their word. With

much trouble we discovered that Herr von Frankenberg was the happy author of the post-master's letter, and so the answer was sent to him. After dinner we played commerce, and at five o'clock drove to Harpke. On the way we were caught in a frightful storm, which detained us in the house for an hour after we reached Harpke. At last the rain stopped ; we went into the garden, and then a great collation was served in the garden saloon. We were very merry, returned to town at eight o'clock, supped, and played drawing-room games till one in the morning. Hardly were we in our rooms, than we were surprised by a wonderfully pretty serenade provided for us by a student. Attracted by the music, the gentlemen came over to us again, and drank tea with us ; the serenade lasted till three in the morning, and was so charming that no one thought of going to bed, and all listened with delight to the music.'

' June 2.

' While I was still dressing, the "Divina" came to my room, to take me to breakfast, and then we drove to L——, where the Duchess of Brunswick was expecting the Princess Charlotte. We got there at twelve, found the Duchess with one lady and

three gentlemen of her household, and at one o'clock went to dinner. The Duchess begged the "Divina" to come to Brunswick, and after a little hesitation she allowed herself to be persuaded, but on condition that she should only have supper there, and leave it again at night or early in the morning. I was delighted with this plan, as I have so many acquaintances in Brunswick; and at three in the afternoon we were again seated in the carriages, and in spite of horrible roads were safe in Brunswick by six in the evening. The Duke, the Landgrave, and the whole Court were delighted to see us. The Princesses retired to their apartments, and the rest of us, with all the pleasantest and gayest people of the Court, went to drink tea with Frau von S——. After seven o'clock we again assembled with the ducal party; the Landgrave talked a great deal to me, was very pleasant, and appeared to wish greatly that my husband should enter his service; but of course I could give him no positive answer upon this point. I had the honour of playing a rubber with the Duchess and the two Princesses. The Landgrave played casino with that ridiculous Frau von Schierstädt, who gives herself beauty airs, and appears to be inexpressibly silly. At supper I

sat by Prince William and the Duke ; we only rose from table at twelve o'clock, conversed till about two, and then the Princess and I came away.'

' June 3.

' We travelled all night, and at eight o'clock in the morning were in Helmstadt, where we were received by twenty of the young students, all dressed alike in light-green. We drank tea with them, and then continued our journey ; the students escorted us as far as Ersleben, where we first changed horses, and at eight o'clock in the evening we were again in Magdeburg.'

In the autumn of this same year, 1761, in which the foregoing pages of the diary are dated, Berlin was again in great danger. The Russians under Butturlin threatened the frontiers and the capital, and Frederick II., who was opposing Laudon in Silesia, could do nothing for their protection. In this extremity he ordered General Platen with 8,000 men to attack the enemy's rear in Poland, where by a bold stroke the latter succeeded in burning the Russian magazines ; Butturlin found himself compelled to retreat by want

of provisions, and the Margraviate was again saved.

All the armies now withdrew into winter quarters, and the Prussian Court, secure from danger, returned from Magdeburg to Berlin; but the war was still not at an end, and another whole year was needed before Frederick had conquered all his enemies, and on the last day of December 1762, negotiations for peace were at last opened at Hubertusburg. In February 1763 peace was concluded, and on March 30 the victorious monarch returned to Berlin.

In order to be present at the King's return, Frau von Voss came to Berlin by command of the Queen, and the wish of the latter to retain her about her person decided her future residence there, as the King, as before mentioned, appointed Herr von Voss to be the Queen's steward of the household. For thirty years, from the summer of 1763 till the death of Count von Voss in 1793, the outward existence of the family remained almost unaltered. The winter was passed in Berlin; the spring and the first half of the summer in attendance on the Queen at Schönhausen, and the late summer and autumn, especially the hunting season, in the country in Mecklen-

burg. Between whiles, on account of her delicate health, Frau von Voss was sent to baths and watering-places, particularly to Pyrmont, and then for several successive years to Carlsbad, and at the latter place she made friends with a Princess Auersperg, the sister of her former adorer, Count Neipperg. This friendship soon became a very intimate one, and during a visit to the Princess in Bohemia made afterwards by Frau von Voss and her daughter, the latter made the acquaintance of her future husband, Count Castell-Rüdenhausen. The young girl was then only thirteen, but this extreme youth for a bride must have been nothing remarkable at that time, and no one seems to have thought it a reason for refusing the parental sanction to their mutual attachment; for after Count Castell had obtained the consent of his future father-in-law, the betrothal was celebrated in October 1769. As the bride had not yet been confirmed, her mother, to guard her from outward distractions, instead of going to Berlin took her to her grandmother's estates, and herself relates in detail how the worthy Pastor Volmer here completed her religious instruction with much earnestness, and how on her fourteenth birthday, in December of the same year, she was confirmed

and received the Holy Communion. The day was solemnly observed as a family festival, and all the relations arrived to be present at the holy ceremony.

A few weeks later, on January 15, 1770, the wedding of the young couple took place at Berlin, and they then went to reside at the castle of Rüdénhausen in Franconia. But to the mother the separation was at first very hard to bear from this only and dearly loved daughter, the more so as the latter often needed her maternal care and consolation, and all the children whom God gave her died within a few weeks or months of their birth. In consequence of this, Frau von Voss spent the greater part of the next few years with her daughter and son-in-law, in the summer generally in Franconia on one or other of Count Castell's estates, in the winter in Würzburg, Ratisbon, Prague, or Vienna. In the latter place she spent one whole winter, on account of a 'cure' which the young countess had to perform. She had hardly arrived before she was taken to the church of St. Augustine, where the Archduke Maximilian was at that moment being received with the greatest pomp into the German order of knighthood. After the ecclesiastical benediction

of the new knight, a great banquet of all the knights of the order was held with much magnificence, at which spectators were also permitted. On this occasion Frau von Voss again saw the Emperor Joseph II., whom she had already become acquainted with at Carlsbad, and who, rejoiced at meeting her so unexpectedly, led her at once to present her to the Empress, who was also present, and during the whole time of her residence in Vienna overwhelmed her with invitations, attentions, and marks of distinction of every kind.

In the month of April 1771 Frau von Voss received a severe blow by the death of her mother, whom she had tenderly nursed through a long illness. She says on this subject in her diary:—

‘This blow was inexpressibly painful to me, and the sorrow which it caused me was so great that I fell ill of a lingering fever, which for two months I could not throw off. My dear and ever to be remembered mother in my childhood loved me perhaps less exclusively than my brother; but in all my later life she showed me a friendship and goodness without a parallel, and her death was an irreparable loss to me. She was a woman

of much talent and judgment, and her remarkable cheerfulness and amiability remained with her to the last.'

A note from the King is inserted at this place, which we here append:—

'Madam,—I regret to learn by your letter of the 7th of this month of the death of your mother. Having always known her as a woman of great merit, I cannot refrain from expressing my sincere sympathy with the grief which the loss of so excellent a mother must cause you! Praying God to console you and to have you in His holy and worthy keeping.

'FREDERICK.

'Potsdam: April 20, 1771.'

The death of this excellent and dearly-loved mother, and the separation from her two only children, produced a painful loneliness in the life of Frau von Voss, who had found her greatest happiness in the education of the latter. Her son had been confirmed and received the Holy Communion in 1766, at the age of fourteen, and was afterwards sent with a tutor and his servants to the knights' school at Luneburg, where he won for himself nothing but praise, and two years later, in 1768,

proceeded with the same tutor to the university of Frankfort on the Oder. The Court life which Frau von Voss had been so fond of in her early youth, had long lost its charm for her, and the great favour with which the Queen Elizabeth Christina distinguished her was, in spite of her gratitude, only a burden to her. She had really no home life now; her husband was every morning and evening at Court, and was besides devoted to company, sport, play, theatres; in short, to a life of dissipation and pleasure. The moment she herself was in Berlin, the Queen insisted with tyrannical affection that she should not only regularly dine and spend the evening at Court, but that as often as possible she should pass the whole day with her. This dull and insipid life was very wearisome to the favourite; she certainly had no want of respect or devotion to the Queen but it is evident from her confession of her domineering temper that daily intercourse with her was dull and uninteresting.

It was perhaps from the contrast with the life at Court that Frau von Voss felt more and more liking for a peaceful active country life; she often repeats this in her diary, and sometimes found it possible, without her husband, who did not share

this taste, to spend months together till late in the autumn alone at her beloved Giewitz. She interested herself in farming, and especially took the warmest and liveliest interest in the welfare of all the people on the estate, and indeed of all the poor in the whole neighbourhood, to whom she was always a kind and gentle benefactress. Friendship also, which had always played an important part in her heart and her life, made good its claims between whiles, and perhaps she attended to it the more since her own life had become so empty and forlorn.

In 1773 Queen Ulrica of Sweden came to visit her German home ; she had always had a peculiar affection for Frau von Voss, and at her urgent request the latter spent some months with her, partly in Schwerin and partly in Stralsand. Then we see her at Prague with a friend, Countess Clam Martinitz, soon afterwards at the Court in Coburg ; again for two months with the Margrave and Margravine of Auspach ; at another time alternately in Meiningen, with Princess Auersperg in Bohemia, and at Hanau with the Crown Prince and Princess of Hesse Cassel, not merely as a visitor, but always as a dear and long-invited friend, honoured, caressed, and made much of.

But these days also, which still held so much of pleasure and happiness for her, were to be brought to an end, and the greatest sorrow that ever befell her was to sadden and cloud her life for long, long years.

When his education was finished, her son, who had been destined by his father for the Civil Service, was at first appointed to Berlin, and the happy mother received this favour with inexpressible joy. She says of him at this time in her diary :—

‘ He has worked very hard at his studies, and has also much distinguished himself, and I can say with pride he has a noble and thoroughly manly character ! He is full of life, however, and just at the age when the passions are hottest and most unruly, and when it is most needful that they should be met with gentleness, which a mother’s love sometimes succeeds in better than a father’s severe authority.’

The joy of having this beloved son with her was of short duration ; he was soon afterwards, at twenty-one years of age, removed to Königsberg as Councillor of State. Her daughter also she now saw but seldom, and she says sorrowfully in her diary :—

‘ Providence, who has granted me the great happiness of possessing such well-disposed and amiable children, seems to deny me the joy of being united with them.’

Her mother-in-law shortly before her death took to live with her granddaughter, the child of her daughter Rochow, whom she dearly loved, and the young girl never again left her grandmother. After her decease Frau von Voss in her turn asked the mother to give up to her this beloved niece, and retained her by her, and when, shortly after, her son came to spend his leave at his father’s house in Gross-Giewitz, an attachment sprang up between the two young people which, to the great joy of their fond aunt and mother, ended in their betrothal. The wedding was celebrated on February 19, 1779; but in October of the same year the young man died after barely three days’ illness of internal inflammation. The unhappy mother learnt his death, without having any previous knowledge of his illness. She immediately set off to fetch her poor daughter-in-law from Königsberg, met her on the way, and brought her to Gross-Giewitz, where she devoted herself to pity and care for her, and where on December 23 the young widow gave birth to a son, who was

christened on the second day after Christmas, and again received the beloved name of Augustus.

This winter of 1779-80 was passed by the sorrowing and bereaved mother in the solitude of her country residence, solely occupied in alleviating the grief of her daughter-in-law, and in surrounding her child with love and tenderness. But her diary at this time contains only words of the deepest grief, which tell us how incurable a wound her heart had received. In one place she says: 'My grief and despair cannot be expressed in words; without the support of the all-merciful God I could not endure the weight of this sorrow, which surpasses all others.'

Quite a series of misfortunes succeeded one another in the family; the death of her husband's sister, Frau von Rochow; then that of her brother's wife; and lastly, that of the only surviving son of her daughter, Countess Castell, a dearly-loved child, sole survivor of all her children!

In the year 1783 the Queen's master of the household, Count Wartensleben, died, and Herr von Voss succeeded to his post, with the rank of a Minister of State. From this time forward the Queen considered it more than ever her right to keep the new minister of the household attached to

her Court and her person, and the latter no longer attempted even occasionally to escape this duty. By the wish of the Queen, both husband and wife in future passed even the summer months with her at Schönhausen, and only went to Gross-Giewitz to look after their affairs for a few weeks in spring or autumn. The death of the great King in 1786 made no change in their outward life. The former Prince of Prussia, son of the Prince Augustus whom the young lady-in-waiting had once loved, ascended the throne under the name of Frederick William II. The touching story of the unconquerable love of his poor father for the charming maid of honour had been no secret to him, and for the very reason that this much-loved father had died so prematurely and so sadly, to his dying day unreconciled to the loss of his love, she was doubly dear to the son. He, too, had known her in the splendour of her rare beauty, when he, a boy of sixteen, had daily met her at the Court of Magdeburg—ridden, danced, and acted with her. She was then thirty-one years old, and was certainly kinder, more amiable, and good-natured to him than to any one else. Is it to be wondered at that the Prince not only from his earliest youth should have a special admira-

tion for this woman, but that he should retain it his whole life long, and in her old age even distinguished her by every kind of attention and favour? Can it not be understood that she, too, should regard the son of her deeply-lamented friend with special sympathy and warm interest, and should feel more sorrow at seeing him die in the prime of life, than the multitude who only saw in him the weak, incapable ruler? We shall hear by-and-by from herself how the last days of this singular friendship between the King and his old acquaintance concluded; but before that he was to cause her a great sorrow, which after the death of her son again wounded her to the heart; and it needed all the above-mentioned tenderness, and even weakness, which she experienced towards this monarch to enable her to forgive him. Frederick William II. was born in 1744, and married in 1765 to a Princess of Brunswick, from whom in 1769 he was divorced by order of Frederick II. He married again, in 1769, a daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt; but unfortunately neither was this marriage a happy one: the after life of the King, his want of principle, and many love adventures are no secret. The first love of the then Prince

of Prussia was for the daughter of a poor Berlin musician, Fräulein Enke, who married the chamberlain Rietz, and was afterwards raised to the dignity of Countess Lichtenau. This woman, who succeeded in maintaining till the death of Frederick William II. an almost undivided and unfortunately most pernicious influence over him, at the time when he ascended the throne had long ceased to be his mistress, whilst remaining the Prince's friend, as he himself called her. He kept up the custom of having supper with her if possible every evening; talked to her about everything, asked her advice on all subjects, and had such blind confidence in her that nothing ever succeeded in shaking it. This determined and intriguing woman had really succeeded in making herself, in the literal sense of the words, indispensable to the King, and none of his later attachments weakened even for a time her lamentable dominion over him.

In the year 1783 Count von Voss's brother, at the wish of the Queen Elizabeth Christina, sent his daughter to Court. That which had happened in 1745 repeated itself in 1783; the Prince of Prussia fell in love with the Queen's lady-in-waiting. Fräulein von Voss, who deserves

pity both for her unhappy fate and for her errors, had attracted the Prince's notice and admiration on her first appearance at Court, and for nearly three years he pursued her with his attentions. In 1786 Count Mirabeau, at that time French envoy at Berlin, writes in his well-known history of the Prussian Court: 'The King persists still in the same respectful attachment to Fräulein von Voss. She withstands him steadily, but he daily gives her new proofs of his devotion, and distinguishes her by the greatest attentions.' In other respects the young lady-in-waiting was in no favour with the French memoir writer, as she disliked anything French, preferred to speak German or English, and avoided as much as possible the universally-spoken French of the day. He consequently brought against her the accusation of Anglomania, which was perfectly unjustified. Her contemporaries depict her as a beauty in the style of Titian, of slender but rounded shape, beautiful form and delicate features, dazzlingly fair, but entirely without colour, her marble paleness relieved by rich reddish yellow hair. At Court she was nicknamed Ceres on account of this luxuriant golden hair, adorned by which she is depicted in the pictures which still remain of

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of Prussia was for the daughter of a poor Berlin musician, Fräulein Enke, who married the chamberlain Rietz, and was afterwards raised to the dignity of Countess Lichtenau. This woman, who succeeded in maintaining till the death of Frederick William II. an almost undivided and unfortunately most pernicious influence over him, at the time when he ascended the throne had long ceased to be his mistress, whilst remaining the Prince's friend, as he himself called her. He kept up the custom of having supper with her if possible every evening; talked to her about everything, asked her advice on all subjects, and had such blind confidence in her that nothing ever succeeded in shaking it. This determined and intriguing woman had really succeeded in making herself, in the literal sense of the words, indispensable to the King, and none of his later attachments weakened even for a time her lamentable dominion over him.

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her, and which all represent her in the first bloom of that youth which she was fated not to survive. It is only in detached and scattered notices in her diaries that Frau von Voss at first remarks upon the attachment of the Prince of Prussia to her niece Julie, which in the commencement seemed harmless, but which soon caused sorrow enough. In January 1784 we find in the above-mentioned pages, not without some expression of anxiety:—

‘ Julie attracts the Prince more than I like to see. He talks a great deal to her. I fear she is not insensible to his admiration, and such feelings can only render herself unhappy.’ A little further on: ‘ The Princess of Prussia is jealous of Julie ;’ and lastly, in December: ‘ I had a long talk alone with the Prince ; I showed him how wrong it was to persecute Julie with his passion, that he could only make her unhappy by it, and I told him my whole mind and the truth in good earnest. He promised me to alter his conduct, and to do everything I wished. Afterwards he had an explanation with Julie, and I know that she reproached him, and rightly, with having injured her reputation in an unpardonable manner. He came back from her very sorrowful, and much cast down, and I again told him seriously that he must

bring this affair to an end, which he promised me to do.' For a long time the Prince seems to have kept his promise, for in January nothing is spoken of but proposals of marriage for the young lady-in-waiting, finally that she should marry a Count Dohna. But this proposal also fell through, and it was thought that the Prince put some hindrance in the way of it. The diary also speaks of the unamiable character of the Princess of Prussia; she repeats again with an expression of pity: 'The Prince has a very disagreeable life at home, the Princess behaves very ill to him.' Then the old passion broke out afresh, more vehemently than ever, and he seems to have forgotten all resolutions and promises. Countess von Voss says anxiously: 'The Prince again begins to talk to Julie; it must be put a stop to. Above all now I fear that she is not herself willing to give him up;' and later: 'The Prince comes perpetually to the old Queen's at Schönhausen, and I know that it is only on Julie's account. I am afraid he has not quite given her up, and is always dwelling on his hopes of her. If only, in spite of all his promises, this affair may not come to a bad end! Julie must absolutely be sent away from Court.'

In January 1786 the Countess writes in her

diary : 'The Prince's passion is always the same. He only tries to hide it more than formerly, and is very cautious, but he does not deceive me. My dearest Julie, on the other hand, behaves extremely well ;' and a few months later : 'The Prince would not play this evening ; I saw that it was only that he might seize a moment to speak to my niece. God knows what he said to her ; she seemed much affected and unhappy over it, and suddenly he also lost all self-command, and appeared quite beside himself, but they stood so far off I could not understand what he said.'

In March : 'I am sorry for the Prince, but in spite of his passion for Julie he has not given up his *liaison* with his so-called friend. To-day he was very low and out of spirits, I think in consequence of some serious words Julie had said to him.' During this time Countess von Voss tried all she could to get the young lady-in-waiting away from Court, but it appears that neither her husband nor the young lady's own family would see the danger which was evidently approaching nearer and nearer to her : it is certain that all her trouble was thrown away, and she could not manage to remove her from Court. Sometimes even to her affairs seemed less threatening, but

between whiles care and anxiety ever woke again, as the following remarks show :—

‘ March 8.

‘ The Prince is terribly absent, his passion seems to occupy all his thoughts.’

‘ March 18.

‘ The Prince came to dinner at Schönhausen, remained the whole afternoon and evening, and seemed to see nothing but Julie.’

‘ March 25.

‘ The Prince begins again to talk to Julie whenever he can, and these constant conversations and discussions are not good for her. I feel as if things were beginning again, when they had been with so much trouble brought to a close.’

‘ April 2.

‘ The Prince came to dinner, and afterwards found an opportunity of speaking to her. After a few words she lost all self-command and burst into tears. I cannot understand it all.’

‘ April 14.

‘ The Prince cannot command himself. He is jealous and irritable if Julie is not there, or if any one approaches her.’

‘ May 5.

‘ I have reminded the Prince of what he seems

to have forgotten for some time past, and he renewed his promises. He is really very good! God grant he may remain so when he becomes King.'

' May 8.

'The poor Prince! he is terribly unhappy. To-day he came again, and when he saw Julie he seemed so happy.'

' May 11.

'The Prince comes perpetually to the Queen. What is to be done? He gets worse and worse. I am very sorry for Julie.'

' May 12.

'His passion seems to me to increase daily. He often comes now for the whole day to Schönhäusen, and has only one idea in his head.'

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The Countess now at last managed that her niece should have three months' leave and return home. She says about it:—

' May 15.

'The Prince is dreadfully unhappy; but I hope this absence will bring things to an end, and him to his senses.'

' Beginning of July.

'It seems, to my horror, that the Prince writes to Julie, and she answers him!'

‘ July 15.

‘ He was very gentle and kind to-day, and spoke reasonably and submissively, and with the best resolutions with regard to my poor niece, and of his duty towards her.’

‘ July 21.

‘ The Prince is very quiet and collected. He talked a great deal to me to-day, and seems more determined than before to do his duty.’

‘ August 15.

‘ To-day Julie came back, and this very evening the Prince came, and has entirely taken up again the old story. It is too bad!’

At this time the condition of the great King began to cause serious anxiety. Disquieting accounts of his health now follow, and at last, on August 17, the sorrowful intelligence of his death. Although he lived so completely retired and apart from the Court, at Potsdam and Sanssouci, the sorrow for his loss seems to have been very deep. The recollections of Countess von Voss speak of the universal grief, and how deeply she herself lamented the deceased, and mention with emotion how kind and gracious he had ever been to her from her earliest youth. Of the present King we will hear herself speak :—

‘August 18.

‘The King came with his two eldest sons from Potsdam, mounted at Schöneberg, and rode through the town amidst the cheers and hurrahs of the multitude, to the palace. All the officers here assembled in the white room. He thanked the Generals for their fidelity to the late King, and added the hope that they would show the same to him.’

‘August 22.

‘The will is quite beautiful. We all cried a great deal as it was read out. The new King does nothing but good, and gives with open hand to the poor. It is incredible how much he is beloved.’

‘August 23.

‘He came to Schönhausen to-day for the first time as King, but unfortunately his behaviour to my niece was the same as before.’

‘August 25.

‘The King comes as often as he can, and then goes with Julie to walk in the garden. But she is so quiet and reserved with him that I am pleased and somewhat reassured.’

‘August 30.

‘The Princesses try to please the King in a

very unpardonable manner, inasmuch as they always bring him and Julie together. They take the Queen out first, and when they are walking take care that he may be able to walk with my niece and talk to her. It is a very wrong game to play.'

'August 31.

'The King has increased Princess Frederika's allowance and given her Fräulein Viereck as lady-in-waiting. I believe solely because it gives pleasure to Julie, whose friend she is.'

'October 1.

'The King came and wanted to speak to me. But he is so occupied with the one thought that he hears and sees nothing else. I confess that I have lost all patience with him, and consider his present position inadmissible and unseemly.'

'October 18.

'The Queen would like to leave Schönhausen and return to town, but the King wishes she should remain here, on account of his beloved walks with Julie. I am quite helpless and very unhappy over this renewal of a perfectly impossible thing.'

'November 1.

'Everything aggravates this unhappy affair.

They want to marry Julie for the sake of appearances. It is terrible how everything combines to hurry on her destruction. I am dreadfully sorry for her.'

'November 8.

'I see clearly now that she loves the King in spite of all her denials. She will not leave him, and, whatever happens, is not to be torn from him. It grieves me sorely.'

'November 10.

'To-day he took us by surprise at dinner. He pursues his design without pause or rest.'

'November 12.

'I fear the effect upon her of these continual conversations with the King. He is quite determined to entangle her. He always sits by her at table, which displeases me very much.'

'November 20.

'My poor niece has poured out her heart to me. Alas! I fear the affair is irremediable!'

'November 25.

'The King goes to-day to Potsdam. He came first to us, and was uneasy because he did not see Julie. He loves her more madly and passionately than ever.'

‘December 2.

‘After dinner the King talked for a long time to my niece. Alas! I fear a sad end is coming for her, and for the honour of the family. I have said over and over again she should not have been left at Court.’

‘December 8.

‘The King is compromising himself fearfully. I wish, for his own sake, he could be a man and recover himself.’

‘December 10.

‘As usual, the King sat at tea by Julie. If only this constant meeting could be prevented!’

‘December 11.

‘With the King to church. Spalding’s sermon was beautiful, and as if written for my niece. But it seems she will listen to nothing now that calls her back to her duty. I have no further influence over her. Countess Kannenberg, who is her nearest relation, lets her alone, and I have neither the power nor the right to interfere.’

‘December 14.

‘Julie seems sorrowful. Her brother has come, and has made a last attempt to appeal to her conscience.’

‘December 17.

‘The King seems only happy when he sees her. Where she is he sees no one but her, talks only to her, and has no thought in his head but of his passion. I see the matter drawing swiftly to the worst conclusion, and I must stand by and cannot stop it.’

‘December 20.

‘Princess Frederika seems now to anticipate the approaching misfortune, and is very sorrowful. She is twenty years of age, and very fond of her father. She feels deeply how his and our honour is threatened.’

‘December 22.

‘The King complained to me that my niece treated him badly. He almost quarrelled with her. But unhappily he still continues to talk to her.’

‘December 23.

‘He sat alone with her in the old Queen’s boudoir. She seems in truth to oppose him no longer. This revolts me, and God only knows how wretched and unhappy I am over this affair.’

‘December 24.

‘Sack preached a fine but melancholy sermon. The affair with Julie, and the turn it is taking, affects him.’

‘ December 25.

‘ To-day there was a State concert. The King left all to go to the Princess, who was ill, because my niece was with her. This passion makes him forget everything and lose all consideration for others.’

‘ December 26.


‘ The King’s conduct is unpardonable. He always follows her with his eyes, and speaks only to her. It would be better, even now, if she left the Court.’

‘ December 27.

‘ God knows how it pains and grieves me to see the King on his way to commit such a sin, by which our family also is so dishonoured.’

‘ December 30.

‘ To-day came at last what I have so long feared. My niece threw herself into my arms to tell me that her fate was decided. She would belong to the King, from duty and from love to him! I confess I think her so terribly to be pitied that I cannot find words to condemn her. She will soon enough be utterly miserable, for her conscience will give her no more peace or rest.’



‘ January 1, 1787.

‘ The King always sits by Julie at the table of the ladies-in-waiting, which is so wrong of him. But it almost seems to me that she has now a greater passion for him than he has for her.’

‘ January 21.

‘ The King’s passion has evidently cooled. He is growing visibly more indifferent to the poor soul, and if this is to be the end of it, she has a sad lot before her.’

‘ January 27.

‘ Poor Julie is in despair this evening. She loves the King, and her scruples of conscience have tired and wearied him. She told me she was too weak to give him up now, and he will not accede to her conditions. It seems to me that others are intriguing against her—that is at the bottom of it all. The King came to supper. He was silent and put out. Poor Julie uneasy and unhappy. Whilst he persecuted her with his attachment she was strong and steadfast; now that he has cooled to her she cannot stand it, and cannot let him go.’

‘ January 30.

‘ The King admires Fräulein Viereck. He obviously cools towards Julie, and the poor thing

is quite inconsolable over his altered behaviour. At the same time he is more amiable than ever, even to his wife and children. Every one adores him, and is enchanted with his friendliness and kindness.'

The conditions put before the King by Fräulein von Voss, as mentioned by the mistress of the household, were as follow:—That the Queen should give her written consent to their union, that the King should wed her solemnly by the left hand, and that Frau von Rietz and her children should leave Berlin for ever. The King was willing to concede the two first points, but the third he would not give in to. And yet many influential persons, notably the Minister Finkenstein, her brother's father-in-law, urged her compliance, and advised her to sacrifice herself for the happiness of the country and the true welfare of the King, by banishing from his neighbourhood the influence of interested and dangerous people; even the Queen herself did so, in the hope of setting aside through her the dreaded Frau von Rietz. She had always had a great affection for Fräulein von Voss, and now sent her word 'she was glad to

know that the King was in such noble and good hands.'

Certainly she had seen him in much worse fetters already, but the gentle, retiring, timid young girl, who was now required to break these finally, was not in a position to do so. The King was then nearly forty-three years of age, but he was personally as well qualified as ever to inspire an attachment. He was a tall, handsome man, with a very winning manner, an unusually warm heart, and of captivating amiability on near acquaintance. And yet the truth and constancy of an attachment of three years' duration did not touch the young lady-in-waiting so much as the first symptoms of coldness, which showed her what it was to lose a love which her heart had been accustomed to look upon as its own possession.

And so at last it appears the left-handed marriage was performed by the Court preacher Zöllner, in the royal chapel at Charlottenburg. The Consistorium declared this to be an allowable proceeding, on the precedent of the permission given by Melancthon for the double marriage of Philip the Magnanimous of Hesse. But at first it was to remain a secret, and Fräulein von Voss

continued quietly in her former position. Only the mistress of the household was allowed by the King to be informed of what had taken place, and she mentions in her diary the avowal of the same. On June 2, 1757, evidently with a hard struggle in her own heart between indignation over the act and sorrow for the actors, she writes:—

‘My niece told me to-day with tears that she had been married to the King for the last week, but desired me to keep it secret. It grieves me sorely, but with the best will I cannot avoid a feeling of disgust and abhorrence at a thing so unlawful. They may give what seeming reason for it they will: her conscience will tell her so soon enough, and will never be at rest again.’

Great, however, as was the pain felt by Countess von Voss at her niece's fall, she never says a word against her, even in the intimacy of her private diary, but, on the contrary, a few pages later she says in her excuse: ‘She stood out for a long time, but she loves the King passionately, and after she had given him her heart she allowed herself to be finally overruled by him. In spite of her terrible false step, she has a noble and not unworthy disposition, and I know well that she

is too honest ever to be happy again after such a fall.'

In the beginning of August, she says further :
'The King is gone to Silesia, and Julie tells me she is going to Berlin to-morrow to take the sacrament, and then go to her relations in the country, and from there to ask for her dismissal, and not return again. She cannot bear this way of going on any longer. She has written so to the King. Alas ! I am afraid, whatever she may do, she will only become more unhappy.'

'August 17.

'Julie started to-day, which grieves me very much.'

'August 20.

'She writes that she wishes to purchase a canonry and begs for a fortnight's leave. The old Queen does not know what to think about it. In spite of all that has occurred, she suspects nothing.'

'August 23.

'I saw Julie to-day in Berlin. She had an answer from the King, who is delighted that she has left the Court. But it is all very sad still, and I pity the poor child very much.'

‘ August 30.

‘ I am afraid that Enke will give Julie much trouble. Julie is to-day gone to her relations in the country. At Court they have no idea that she is not coming back again.’

‘ September 1.

‘ A letter arrived to-day from my poor niece to the Queen Dowager, asking for her dismissal, and saying she had bought a canonry in Wolmirstädt. The Queen granted the permission at once, and took it very well. Julie also wrote to Countess Kannenberg.¹ Countess Kannenberg read out to me her niece’s letter, in which she gives her reasons for going. Countess Kannenberg is her aunt, and is now very sorry for her ; but I repeat again, they could have saved her if they had chosen to do so at the right time, but all my efforts then were in vain. Julie is still in Brandenburg with her relations. The King is back again, and talked of establishing her at Potsdam, but does not do it. Ah ! how unhappy she will be.’

‘ September 4.

‘ My niece writes to me from Brandenburg

¹ Countess Kannenberg was the actual Mistress of the Household, whilst Frau von Voss only bore the title as wife of the Master of the Household.

that she goes on the 9th to Potsdam, and prays God to support her in the new life awaiting her. May God help her! It is a terrible step she must now take, in braving this affair before the world.'

'September 28.

'Princess Frederika was at the hunt at Wusterhausen. The King was also there, and for the first time my niece with him. They tell me to my comfort that she seems to be happy.'

'October 1.

'Julie writes to me that she is going with the King to Wörlitz, and seems happy and cheerful.'

'November 6.

'Julie has received the title of Countess Ingenheim. The poor thing writes to me that she feels very unhappy. How very sorry I am for her! Frau von Rietz causes her heart a thousand pangs, and her influence over the King is the same as ever.'

'December 1.

'Princess Frederika will not see Julie, though the King has desired it. I think he is wrong to force her.'

'December 7.

'The King himself took Julie to Princess Frederika, and she has given in.'

‘December 20.

‘Julie is unwell, and cannot leave her bed. Princess Frederika and the Princess of Brunswick, with the King, dined in her room, at her bedside. It is too strong!’

‘January 11, 1788.

‘A ball at the King’s, where the Crown Prince saw Julie for the first time as Countess Ingenheim. It was a very unpleasant moment for both of them. Poor thing, what a painful position for her!’

‘January 20.

‘She is received at all the Courts, and goes everywhere. I cannot understand it.’

‘February 22.

‘The old Queen had a great dinner, and asked the King if she should invite Countess Ingenheim; naturally he said yes, and so she came to the dinner. I think it is very wrong of the Queen to invite her to flatter the King. In the evening, instead of playing lotto with the Royalties, she played in the ante-room with the household. At table she was placed opposite the King.’

‘February 29.

‘The old Queen again invited Countess In-

genheim. I think she behaves as weakly and unworthily as possible towards the King in this affair.'

'March 4.

'Great dinner at the Minister Arnheim's,¹ where were also the King and Countess Ingenheim. But in spite of all she is sorrowful, for the King still sups daily as before with Frau von Rietz, and that is of course a great grief to her.'

'March 19.

'The King is gone with Julie to Potsdam.'

'June 1.

'Countess Ingenheim is gone to-day with the King to Charlottenburg.'

'December 1.

'Countess Ingenheim begged me earnestly to stand by her in her coming trial. The King also the following day begged me to do so, and I could not find it in my heart to refuse.'

'January 2, 1789.

'Julie gave birth to a son to-day. The King was there and much pleased.'

'January 4.

'The child is christened. The King himself

¹ Countess von Voss always writes Arnheim for Arnim.

held him at the font. He is named Gustavus Adolphus William. Julie's brother, the Minister Bischofswerder and I were the sponsors. The King was nearly the whole day with the invalid.

'In truth, he is really the best Prince that can be found in the whole world. What a pity that he is so weak, so devoid of energy, and sometimes so impetuous.'

At first all went well with the young mother, but as ill-luck would have it the King hurt his foot by a false step. He could not in consequence leave his room, could not see Countess Ingenheim, and was very unhappy over this separation. She, who loved him above all things, and never considered herself, would not listen to the remonstrances of her nurse, or the prohibitions of her doctor, and left her room every day to visit the King, when she should scarcely have been out of her bed. The severity of the season, and the cold of the stairs and passages in the palace, did harm to the poor young thing, but perhaps still more the first shock of the King's accident.

‘January 20.

‘Poor Julie troubles and worries herself terribly about the King, which is very bad for her.’

‘January 22.

‘Julie is seriously unwell; she has caught a dreadful cold. But the emotion and anxiety about the King have hurt her more than anything. She has been obliged to give up nursing to-day, and sent for a wet-nurse.’

‘January 25.

‘The King was again able to be with her to-day. He can manage to walk a few steps. There were a few people to dinner, and they played in the evening.’

‘January 27.

‘I dined with Julie, who was very much agitated and apparently has some grief, but hides it from me.’

‘January 29.

‘Though the King is with her nearly all day it does not pacify her. She is afraid of the inimical influence of Frau von Rietz, lest she should again tear his heart from her.’

‘February 5.

‘To-day there was a great reception at Court,

and Julie went there again for the first time, although she has never been well since the King's accident. She will not give in, but I am afraid she does herself harm. The King has given her a little casket with 50,000 thalers, and his portrait set in diamonds. The stones are most beautiful.'

'February 24.

'Julie has fever and cough. She is up and goes out, but I am not satisfied about her.'

'March 5.

'It is feared that poor Julie is in a galloping consumption. I cannot say how grieved I am. The King is beside himself. He does not know the danger, but he is very anxious about her.'

'March 25.

'What a day of misfortune! Poor Julie died quite suddenly this evening at eight o'clock. A fit of choking seized her. No one had anticipated such imminent danger. The King had gone in the afternoon to Potsdam, and I went to her towards evening, but Princess Frederika, who was with her, advised me not to go in to her, as she was tired, and so I never saw her again. I

deplore her loss with my whole heart, and all lament her with me. She went terribly suddenly ; I cannot yet grasp it. She died in the palace, in the same room in which her child was born.'

The child was given to Julie's brother, the Minister von Voss, to bring up. The body of the deceased was carried to Buch, where it was interred in the church. The King was in despair, and could neither be comforted nor calmed.

In spite of her culpable relations towards him, universal sympathy was felt for the unhappy woman, whose extreme youth and sad fate disarmed all condemnation and touched all hearts. The idea gained ground that she had been poisoned with a glass of lemonade, and many people would not give up the notion. The Queen herself bewailed the deceased, and said, 'I have lost in her my best friend.'

Countess von Voss says in her memoirs : 'The King heard of the rumour of poison, and commanded a post-mortem examination. This proved it to be groundless. The lungs alone were affected, and that killed her. The King has shown the greatest generosity to all her people,

and has taken her groom of the chamber into his own service.'

For nearly a year the King mourned his lost love, and thought only of her, and all efforts to divert him were in vain. He could not bring himself to see Countess von Voss again, the sight of whom reminded him too painfully of the happiness of the past and the last delightful days. When he once met her for a moment at the Queen's at Schönhausen he lost all self-control, and could not restrain his tears. However, in the course of the following winter, he found consolation. A young Countess Dönhoff, a strikingly pretty woman, who was lady-in-waiting to the reigning Queen, succeeded in winning his heart. He fell in love with her, and she soon left the Court to fill the position of the deceased. It may be only too easily conceived how painful this second romance, carried on by the fickle King under the very eyes of his wife and grown-up children and the whole Court, was to the Countess von Voss. She suffered as much through her love for the King as through her love for the unfortunate Countess Ingenheim, whom in spite of her false step she mourned with motherly

affection. From the few details of this affair to be found in her diary, we will take some as further characteristic of the state of morals at that time, although they only give very short and incomplete accounts of passing events. On the very day of the celebration of Countess Ingenheim's funeral, on April 4, at the church of Buch, we find :—

‘The Queen's new lady-in-waiting, Countess Sophie Dönhoff, came here to-day and was presented.’

She does not mention her again till some months later, on January 27, 1790, when she says : ‘I returned to Berlin to-day from Rügenhausen, where I had been staying with my daughter, and went in the evening to Court, to the Queen Dowager. The King and Queen were there. The company overwhelmed me with kindness, the King being especially gracious and amiable to me. But it struck me that he admires the new lady-in-waiting, Countess Dönhoff, very much.’

She soon learnt from others that this ‘admiration’ had been already remarked at Court. We will now confine ourselves again to her words, as we find them in the diary.

‘ January 30.

‘ People say here that the intimacy between the King and Countess Dönhoff arose rapidly and has already gone far. That he is very much in love with her, I can see. But such renewal of wrongdoing would be too dreadful. I cannot believe that it will come to that.’

‘ January 31.

‘ The King talked a great deal to me to-day, and I then saw that he never took his eyes off his mistress.’

‘ February 14.

‘ They say there has been a tremendous scene at Montbijou about Countess Dönhoff, and that the Queen is very angry about it.’

‘ February 18.

‘ The Queen has been obliged to apologise to Countess Dönhoff. Poor Queen !’

‘ February 20.

‘ I played whist with the King. He was cheerful and very amiable. Ah ! if he were only not so indolent and weak, how happy it would be for us and for himself !’

‘ March 6.

‘ There was a soirée at Countess Eiwstädt’s. The King was there, and completely engrossed

by his mistress, whose behaviour does not please me. She is very pretty, but I do not think she is high-principled.'

' March 13.

' I was at the King's, where were also the two eldest Princesses, Frederika and Wilhelmina, and the Margrave of Auspach with his mistress, Lady Craven, whom he presented to the King. She is faded, but is said to be clever, is extremely arrogant, concerns herself about nobody, allows no one to be introduced to her, and talks only to her Landgrave, who seems perfectly enraptured with her. It is really incredible that such a person should be received and spoken to at Court.'

' March 14.

' The King gave a grand concert, at which the Margrave and his Lady Craven were present.'

' April 4.

' Herr von Langermann, Countess Dönhoff's uncle, came and told me his niece would leave the Court, but at the same time she does not quite know what she wants.'

' April 10.

' Countess Dönhoff is dismissed, and has gone suddenly. Some people say she is with the King

at Potsdam; others, that she is gone to her mother's, whom I know slightly, and who is *née* von Langermann.'

'April 11.

'Frau von Kameke told me that the King had married Countess Dönhoff. Zöllner performed the marriage at the house of her aunt, Princess Solms, and they then went to Potsdam.'

'April 13.

'Nothing is talked of but Countess Dönhoff. She is with the King at Potsdam, and he gives soirées and concerts in her honour. Ah! the poor King! How can he be exonerated from it all?'

'May 15.

'Vengersky is in disgrace, and the same threatens Lindenau and Bischofswerder, through the influence of Countess Dönhoff, who does not like them. She is still at Potsdam, and the King openly calls her "My beloved wife."'

'August 14.

'The King has been for the last week at Breslau, where there seems to be something going on between him and a certain Fräulein von Mitzlaff. Countess Dönhoff appears to have heard this, and has gone to him.'

‘ December 1.

‘ The King returned to Berlin to-day, with Countess Dönhoff, for the first time.’

‘ December 8.

‘ Countess Dönhoff, who first stopped at her aunt Solms, went to-day to the King at the palace. In the evening she was at the theatre, in the big box with Lindenau and Heinitz.’

‘ December 10.

‘ Yesterday the Countess appeared for the first time at a little soirée at the King’s, at which were also present Princess Frederika and the Minister Heinitz and his wife.’

‘ January 4, 1791.

‘ To-day the King brought Countess Dönhoff with him to supper at Princess Frederika’s.’

‘ January 12.

‘ A ball at the King’s, where his Countess also appeared, but in consequence neither of the two Queens came.’

‘ January 25.

‘ Countess Dönhoff gave a concert and supper. The King had ordered the Crown Prince to be present. Afterwards he went with the Countess to a masquerade at the theatre. The latter was dressed as an enchantress.’

‘February 6.

‘The old Queen will not give in to the King’s new fancy. She has invited him for to-morrow, but not Countess Dönhoff.’

‘February 9.

‘The old Queen has given in. She invited Countess Dönhoff, and then went to bed, and said she was ill, so as not to appear at her own party.’

‘February 14.

‘To-day it was done. The old Queen invited the Countess with the King, and really saw her. She played lotto with the Royalties, but did not remain to supper.’

‘February 16.

‘Supper at the old Queen’s. The King was there with the Queen, but not his mistress, who has again broken with the King, with whom she quarrels perpetually.’

‘February 19.

‘They say that all is over between the King and the Countess. She will not go back with him to Potsdam, but insists upon going away. She reproaches the King with being always under the influence of Frau von Rietz.’

‘February 24.

‘The King is again reconciled with his

Countess. I saw her to-day. She is terribly altered and as white as death, but she goes to him on Saturday to Potsdam.'

'February 27.

'Countess Dönhoff came to-day to pay her respects to the Queen. She looks ill, and I felt sorry for her. She can do nothing against Frau von Rietz and Bischofswerder. To-morrow she goes to Potsdam, but I think she will not long retain her influence over the King. She has no want of understanding, but she is too capricious, and the King has already cooled towards her.'

'January 24, 1792.

'Countess Dönhoff gave birth to a son to-day, in her room at the palace. Princess Solms and Frau Puttkamer nursed her.'

'February 4.

'I paid Countess Dönhoff a visit. She was very amiable; the child is remarkably big and strong.'

'February 13.

'To-day was the christening at Countess Dönhoff's. The little one received from the King the title of Count of Brandenburg, and was named Frederick William. Countess Dönhoff looks very

ill, but the King is still very kind and tender to her, and has given her some splendid pearls.'

'March 13.

'There was a supper to-day at Countess Dönhoff's. She is still extremely gracious to me.'

'March 19.

'Countess Dönhoff is gone with the King to Potsdam, and has taken her child with her. She has bought Verdi's house there for 40,000 thalers, and sold her present one to Heinitz for 30,000 thalers.'

'June 20.

'Countess Dönhoff has suddenly departed, and it is said for ever.'

'June 24.

'I hear that the poor Countess Dönhoff was mixed up in that miserable intrigue of Bielefeld's, and now I can understand that she will never return. The King joined the army to-day. All wept, and the parting from him was very touching. In spite of his great faults he is still much beloved. May God send him back to us!'

'January 18, 1793.

'I hear that Countess Dönhoff was delivered

of a daughter on the 4th of this month, at Neufchatel.'

After the separation of the King from Countess Dönhoff, brought about no doubt by the intrigues of Madame Rietz, he gave her two children, who had received the titles of Count and Countess of Brandenburg, to be brought up by Marshal von Massow. The Countess herself, after her return from Switzerland, lived first at Angermünde, and it was not till later, in the reign of Frederick William III., that she got permission to return to Berlin and to see her children again, and she then remained on her estate at Werneuchen, where she died in 1834. Frau von Rietz, afterwards Countess Lichtenau, managed, after she had got rid of Countess Dönhoff, to attain the most unbounded influence over the King's mind, which she most unscrupulously misused. Her two children held the titles of Count and Countess von der Mark. The eldest of them, a son, died at nine years of age; the daughter, Countess Marianne von der Mark, married in 1797 the eldest son of Count Friedrich von Stolberg-Stolberg; was divorced from him in a few years, and married for the second time

Miaskowsky, a Pole; and for the third time a Frenchman, von Thierry. Her daughter by the first marriage married another Count Stolberg, and her daughter by the third marriage married her uncle, Count Ingenheim.

After the tragedy of which her unhappy niece Countess Ingenheim had been the heroine, was at end, the diary of Countess von Voss records but little of the events at Court, or of the King's mode of life.

Her recollections show us more and more the re-awaking of anxiety over the threatening aspect of affairs in France.

When in 1792 the King, with the Crown Prince and Prince Louis, marched into the field, and when later all hope of freeing Louis XVI. and his Queen was over, in consequence of the unfortunate termination of these warlike operations; when the terror in Paris daily increased, and at last the tragical history of the royal martyrs came to an end, the writer of these pages also was impressed with the profound grief and horror which had seized upon all minds.

But it was not only the increasing destruction of the neighbouring country, not only sorrow over the humiliation of the Prussian arms, and for the

men uselessly and ingloriously sacrificed to the hardships of war, that troubled Countess von Voss, as the pages of her diary bear witness. Since the beginning of the year 1792 the writer had been entirely occupied with nursing and attending to her husband through a long and painful illness. The invalid had as usual spent the winter in Berlin, but in spite of his suffering and of his increasing weakness, his longing for his country home with the returning spring left him no peace. Careless of the danger of the fatigue of the journey and of his doctor's scruples, he set out from Berlin, and he was permitted to reach that desired haven, but only to end his life there. And he died a few days after his arrival at Gross-Giewitz, on May 26, 1793.

WIDOWHOOD

1793-1814

VOL. I.

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WIDOWHOOD.

1793-1814.

FRAU VON VOSS remained, after the death of her husband, alone in her country seclusion, and seemed quite determined never again to leave it. Her daughter-in-law had married again, a Herr von Schack, and the grandparents had undertaken the education of their only remaining grandchild. But the latter, a fine talented boy of thirteen, the delight of his grandmother, was in the military college at Brandenburg, and could only visit her during his holidays. She was now sixty-four years of age; the outer world lay closed behind her, and before her the sad evening of a lonely old age, which seem destined to linger out here in the recollections of all that had passed and gone. But it was not to be so. On April 24, 1793, the betrothal took place of the Crown Prince of Prussia to Princess Louisa of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who was born on March 10,

1776; and the King, faithful to his constant veneration for his father's friend, had at once expressed a wish that she should accept the post of mistress of the household to his future daughter-in-law. It seemed the more desirable, from the extreme youth of the Royal bride, to place an elderly lady at the head of her Court, who could better guide her to the true knowledge of all the customs and duties, all the outward ceremonies and traditions of the Royal Court; and who better justified the unlimited confidence of the King than Frau von Voss? Still mourning for her husband, and busy with the management of her property, in the new administration of her estates in general, Frau von Voss inclined at first to decide against the King's appeal. But Frederick William II. would not be put off, and held to his wish regarding the widowed Frau von Voss with friendly obstinacy. He talked to her, overcame her reasons against it, and after much writing to and fro persuaded her at last to yield to his wish, and to take the position offered to her. A letter of the King's, which is still in existence, speaks of it as a settled matter. He dates the same from his head-quarters at Türkheim, August 6, 1793:—

‘Madame,—I have received with your letter of July 27 the insignia of the order of the Red Eagle which I had given to your late husband. I regret sincerely that he was not able longer to wear this mark of my esteem, and my thoughts with regard to him are too well known to you for you to doubt the share I have had in your affliction. You will do well, as you say, to write yourself to the future Princess Royal, and to tell her of the choice I have made of you to fill the post of mistress of the household to her. This attention can only give her pleasure, and prepare her beforehand for the friendship which I do not doubt she will soon bear towards you. I pray God, Madame Voss, that He may have you in His safe and holy keeping.

‘FREDERICK WILLIAM.’

The following letter is from the Crown Prince thanking her for her congratulations on his birthday :—

‘Head-quarters, Türkheim : August 13, 1793.

‘Madame,—I am very sensible of the attachment you are good enough to express to me by your obliging letter of July 30, on the occasion of my birthday. Be assured, Madame, that I also

make the most sincere good wishes for your welfare, and that I shall seize every opportunity for proving to you the perfect esteem with which I shall never cease to be,

‘Madame,

‘Your very affectionate friend,

‘FREDERICK WILLIAM.’

Frau von Voss remained on her estate through the summer and autumn, then paid a visit to the Court of Strelitz, at that time resident in New Brandenburg, where the future Crown Princess was also staying with her grandmother, and went to Berlin in December. She was at once lodged in the palace, which had been newly prepared for the Crown Prince’s establishment—the same now inhabited by the Crown Prince of the German Empire and of Prussia—and was given the rooms on the ground-floor, to the left of the entrance, in which she remained till her death. A page of her writing with the heading, ‘What a mistress of the household should be,’ dates apparently from this time; it is interesting as a species of self-instruction, and deserves to find a place here.

‘As regards outward demeanour, the mistress of the household should hold her head high and walk erect, should have a courteous but dignified carriage, and bow properly, not as is done now with the head only, but with the knees, curtsying respectfully and solemnly, and rising slowly and with dignity.

‘She must be courteous to every one, and respectful to her superiors, happen what may, and she must never forget herself. Towards her subordinates and servants kind and without haughtiness, not too strict towards the young; telling them the truth sincerely and from the heart, but not forgetting that she too was once young and has felt the power of love. It is certainly her duty to win regard and confidence; but she must not be too confiding and familiar with others, and both at Court and in society must see to the observance of the proprieties and of the acknowledged rules of etiquette; in daily home-life, however, she may set these aside, and only seek to make life pleasant to all. As much as possible she should endeavour to maintain an even cheerful temper, for as the mistress of the household is not generally oppressed with youth, and must forego its charms, she must endeavour

to replace these by that amiability which constant good temper and cheerful demeanour will ensure ; and she will avoid long stories and repetitions, which fatigue every one. Above all, she will not meddle in anything that is not required of her by her position ; but if any one asks her advice, or wishes to know her opinion of some matter, she must say without fear or hesitation what she thinks right. Let her make a rule also of not making a fuss about trifles, and not easily taking offence ; for there are few people in the world who would do or say anything disagreeable to one *on purpose* ; and if we do meet with any such, we should despise and forget their sins of omission or commission, or else take no notice of them at all.

‘ She must devote herself with her whole heart and soul to the Princess in whose service she is. If the latter is young, she must carefully guard her youth and inexperience, always respectfully and without severity tell her the truth, and remind her that her example, whether as to morals or manners, is certain to be followed. She must be courteous, pleasant, and respectful to her mistress, not pushing or presuming, but yet remembering what she owes to herself. Quiet,

not a great talker, never allowing herself to indulge in unbecoming or foolish mirth, or to make thoughtless and trifling remarks, but careful to keep up agreeable conversation whenever it seems to be required. And in this too she must take care not to forget the respect due to the Princess, and not to show either want of consideration or too great intimacy towards subordinates.'

The King's second son, Prince Louis, was betrothed at the same time as the Crown Prince, to the sister of the future Crown Princess. The two Royal brides, with their grandmother, the widowed Landgravine of Hesse Darmstadt, were to come from Hildburghausen to Potsdam on December 21. The Princes went out to Potsdam to meet them, and so did the members of both Princesses' households. That of the future Crown Princess consisted, besides the mistress of the household, of only the two von Vierecks, ladies-in-waiting, and the gentleman-in-waiting, von Schilden, who all remained in their respective positions till the death of their mistress. The Princesses were met at Baumgartenbrück by the burghers of Potsdam on horseback, dressed in

the Mecklenburg colours, and eighteen postilions sounded the first welcome to them, after which they drove through a magnificent triumphal arch, and were received in the Royal palace by the two Princes, their betrothed. The next day the latter preceded the Princesses to Berlin, that they might receive them in the palace there also. This was on December 22, a mild, sunny, spring-like day, and the whole road from Potsdam to Berlin was crowded with the populace of the neighbourhood and the people of Berlin. At Schöneberg especially, where the procession of Royal carriages arrived about one o'clock, it was received with shouts of welcome from an immense and joyful crowd; here also eight fresh horses were harnessed to the Princesses' carriage, and the trade-guilds on horseback, as well as the troops posted here, defiled before them, and then formed into an escort. Forty-six postilions, blowing their horns, led the way; next came the guild of waggoners, the butchers' company, the archers, an ensign of the young burghers of Berlin in the dress of the old German knights; the united brewers' and distillers' guild, two companies of young tradesmen on horseback, and finally the members of the three great trade-guilds, besides an escort of a part of the

regiment of the Garde du Corps in dress uniform. At the Potsdam gate was stationed the magistrate, to receive them in the name of the city ; the Leipziger Strasse, as far as the Wilhelm Strasse, and that up to the Linden, were lined with the Berlin militia ; where the statue of Frederick the Great now stands an immense triumphal arch was erected, which surpassed in magnificence all that they had yet met with on the road, and under which stood eighty children dressed in white, holding garlands and presenting flowers and poetical addresses. It was here also that the young Crown Princess enchanted the surrounding crowd by taking the charming little spokeswoman in her arms, and, overcome by her own emotion, kissing her. As far as the Royal palace the guilds were again stationed, and a shouting multitude crowded round them. The two Royal brides drove in the great gilt State carriage, and opposite to them sat Countess von Voss and Countess Brühl ; in the two next carriages were the grandmother, the father, and brother of the Princesses, and then their suite. At the palace the King, accompanied by the Princes, received the honoured guests, conducted them to the Queen and the Dowager Queen, and then himself presented them to the other members of the Royal

circle and to the whole Court. On Christmas Eve, at six o'clock, was celebrated the wedding of the Crown Prince, and two days later that of Prince Louis. Both ceremonies took place in the white room, and the altar, under a great canopy of red velvet embroidered with gold, stood in the same place where two years before the double marriage of the Princess Frederika with the Duke of York, and the Princess Wilhelmina with the Crown Prince of Orange, had taken place. Everything was enhanced, however, by the universal joy; for the exquisite grace, the charm and sweetness of the young Crown Princess, now only seventeen years old, and the delight and admiration her appearance excited, made her entry a real triumphal progress, and brightened every festivity that followed. As Fouqué says: 'The arrival of this angelically beautiful princess shed a glow of higher light over each day. All hearts went out towards her, and her sweetness and goodness made all around her happier.' Even the mistress of the household, saddened by all the sorrows of her life, was not unmoved by the charm of her young mistress. At first the fatigue, the bustle, and animation of the newly enlivened Court life were wearisome to the now elderly woman; but it was

not long before her love and devotion to the charming young Princess made even this easy to her. We will give here a few pages of the short entries in her diary at this time.

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'December 21, 1793.

'I went with the two ladies-in-waiting von Viereck, and the gentlemen of the household early this morning to Potsdam. The Princes went equally early to meet the Princesses, who, however, only arrived at six o'clock in the evening, accompanied by their grandmother and by Prince George of Darmstadt. They both seem not only beautiful, but charming. We had supper, and separated early.'

'December 22.

'Countess Brühl and I drove with the two Princesses through countless triumphal arches into Berlin. The entry into the town was splendid, but lasted a long time; we got to Schöneberg at one o'clock, and only arrived at the palace at three. Then we dined with the King and the whole Royal family; in the evening was a Court and supper at the Queen's.'

‘ December 23.

‘ Dinner at the Queen’s ; this evening a ball at the King’s.’

‘ December 24.

‘ The Crown Princess’s wedding-day. She dined with her grandmother and us ladies ; then dressed, and at six o’clock went to the Queen to put on her crown ; the wedding was in the white room, and was followed by the accustomed solemnities, the torch-light dance, &c. I stood for six hours on my feet, from six till twelve o’clock, without sitting down, and was tired to death when at last I got home at one o’clock at night.’

‘ December 25.

‘ The first day of Christmas. The young couple drove from the King’s palace to the cathedral for the service, and thence in great state to the palace, where they have now taken up their abode, and where a great dinner was given. Afterwards we had a Court here, and then a supper at the King’s.’

‘ December 26.

‘ Wedding-day of Prince Louis, which was precisely like that of the Crown Prince.’

‘December 28.

‘First representation of the opera of ‘Armida,’ which has been got up in honour of the Princesses.’

‘December 29.

‘The Queen held a Court and gave a great masked ball. My beloved grandson, Augustus Voss, has been here since the 21st, lodges at Beville’s, and is with me as often as I have time to see him.’

‘December 30.

‘Operetta and supper at the King’s.’

‘December 31.

‘A great entertainment at the Dowager Queen’s. We dine now always by ourselves at the palace. The Princess really deserves to be worshipped, she is so good and so charming; and the Crown Prince is so worthy and excellent a man that one must rejoice with him at the rare happiness of such a marriage, the possession of such an angel.’

‘January 1, 1794.

‘May God mitigate all my sorrows, and make me recognise in spite of them how full of His mercy my whole life has been! May He help

me to fulfil my duties, and in doing so always and evermore to think of Him.

‘We dined with the old Queen, where all the Court was assembled. In the evening the second State opera took place, and with this the festivities in honour of the wedding came to an end.’

‘January 2.

‘Dinner at home, in the evening at the King’s.’

‘January 3.

‘An entertainment at the Queen’s.’

‘January 4.

‘A great ball at Prince Ferdinand’s, which lasted till six o’clock in the morning.’

‘January 5.

‘Sunday. Nobody went to church. After dinner the Queen held her first great drawing-room.’

‘January 6.

‘The Carnival begins to-day. State opera.’

‘January 7.

‘We always dine alone with the Prince and Princess; only the Strelitz grandmama comes sometimes. The old Duke of Strelitz went away yesterday.’

‘January 8.

‘Operetta and supper at the King’s.’

‘January 9.

‘The Crown Princess was not well, and so we stayed at home all day, and did not go to the Queen’s Court. We were very happy and comfortable alone together, and very glad to be for once by ourselves.’

‘January 10.

‘To-day again we remained at home ; Massow read aloud in the evening ; this is what I call a happy life. My Augustus, alas ! is gone.’

‘January 11.

‘The Crown Princess is well again ; we went to the assembly at Frau von Möllendorf’s, where it was frightfully hot.’

‘January 12.

‘The Crown Princess is unfortunately again unwell, and obliged to keep her room.’

‘January 13.

‘We took a drive. The opera in the evening, then supper with Princess Louis. For some time past the news from the Rhine has been very bad. Wurmser has been beaten ; all is going wrong. The Duke of Brunswick has requested to be

recalled, and Marshal Möllendorf goes to take his place with the army. God knows we can hardly look for a good end to this war.'

'January 14.

'Dinner at the Queen's, in the evening to the Arnims, and from there to the masquerade, the latter of which is most disagreeable to me; at one o'clock at home.'

'January 15.

'Dinner by ourselves, and very cheerful. The King gave a great ball. He was very gracious to me. The French lady of the name of Dumoulin, who was present just two years ago while her husband was being massacred, was there also, but I do not like her. The ball lasted till three o'clock.'

'January 16.

'Dinner at home with Prince Charles and Prince George of Strelitz; we were very cheerful; in the evening the Queen Dowager held a Court.'

'January 17.

'My Highnesses dined with Prince Louis, went to the opera, and to supper with the King.'

'January 18.

'Dinner at home; assembly at the Minister Heinitz's, then supper with Prince Louis.'

January 1.

'At dinner only the King's brothers and the young Princes. In the evening the Queen held a Court.'

January 2.

'A *déjeune* at Count Vengersky's. Then a great dinner at home: many generals came, amongst them Mollendorf, who goes to-morrow. For a moment with Princess Lorraine, who is ill. In the evening the opera, then a masquerade and supper at home.'

January 21.

'I try to be busy for myself a little while in the morning, but it is difficult. Dinner with the Queen, in the evening at the Armies, then masquerade.'

January 22.

'Dinner at home. The King gave a ball in the evening, which was very full: the King talked a great deal to me, asked me if I was happy in my present situation, and was really most gracious.'

January 23.

'This morning I wrote to the King. Then the Queen gave a breakfast at Montbijou, where one always nearly dies of the cold; we went into

the garden too, and it lasted till three o'clock. Dinner by ourselves. In the evening for a short time only at Court with the Crown Princess, who came home early as the Prince has caught cold; we drank tea with her, and were all very well content to be alone.'

'January 24.

'Dinner alone. The Prince has still got a cold. The King came in after the opera, and played cards with Prince Charles and his two daughters-in-law; the King was very lively, and stayed till midnight.'

'January 25.

'I go up every morning to my Princess for an hour; at dinner we are generally alone with the Prince and Princess. This evening we went to the assembly at Princess Sacken's, where the Princess danced almost too much, so that I was not pleased at it. Thence to supper at Countess Eiwstädt's.'

'January 26.

'Prince Louis Ferdinand came early, as he wanted to talk about fancy dresses with the Princess; I cannot approve of the friendship with him. The Queen held a reception.'

‘January 27.

‘A great dinner at home, at which the Queen Dowager and Princess Louis with their suites were present. Everything went off very well, and could not have been better. Afterwards all went to the opera. The King had a supper party, and cards were played; he was very well and cheerful.’

‘January 28.

‘Dinner with the Queen, the King was also present. In the evening, ball at Frau von Arnim’s, then masquerade. The four Princesses, Viereck, and Knobelsdorf were disguised as nuns, and looked very pretty. I wrote some verses for them, which were very well received. The crowd was frightful, and it lasted till one o’clock.’

‘January 29.

‘At the King’s ball till three o’clock. The Crown Princess danced very prettily.’

‘January 30.

‘The Queen Dowager held a reception.’

‘January 31.

‘Prince George and the whole Royal family came to dinner; then the opera, and the Queen came to supper here.’

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In this way the life of the Court of Berlin continued during the Carnival, one fête succeeding another. On March 10, 1794, the first birthday which the Crown Princess celebrated in her new home, the King gave her the palace of Oranienburg for a summer residence, having had it newly decorated for the reception of his honoured daughter-in-law. The gentlemen and ladies of her acquaintance appeared dressed as country inhabitants of Oranienburg to present the keys of the palace to the Princess, with gifts and verses. When on the evening of this joyful day the King asked his radiant, happy daughter-in-law if she had not still *one* wish that he could gratify, she asked for ‘a handful of gold for the poor;’ and the goodnatured King gave her a most liberal handful, which she soon found means of distributing with heartfelt joy in the power of doing good.

We give here another page of the Countess von Voss’s notes of this first winter of 1794.

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‘The Crown Princess had a beautiful figure; her appearance was both dignified and charming; every one who saw her felt irresistibly drawn and

attached to her. When the time of the great Court festivities was over, the life of our Court was arranged very simply, as the Crown Prince preferred; even during the Carnival they only attended the receptions of the two Queens, otherwise the young couple lived a happy home-life. Prince Louis and his wife inhabited the little palace near ours, and lived in affectionate intercourse with their elder brother and sister, sometimes at their house, sometimes at ours, but always together. Only once did a foreign and evil influence attempt to enter this happy innocent family life. It was in February and March of that first winter that the passionate nature of Prince Louis Ferdinand sought, for a moment, to gain an influence over the noble and virtuous mind of the Crown Princess. As she made it impossible for him to approach her, he sought to effect this by a stratagem. He began by gaining the young Princess Louis, and this was easily done. Only fifteen years old, and in no way resembling her Royal sister, she was utterly wanting in the earnestness, the depth of character, and strong sense of duty which animated the latter, and above all she was very susceptible to flattery; her husband also was perhaps himself too young to be a good guide for

her. The Crown Prince, on the contrary, was a true friend to his wife, and that from the first ; strict and blameless himself in all his conduct, and with serious religious feelings, he was a firm support to her young mind, and never treated her otherwise than with the deepest respect and love. I could not expect in the first months of their marriage that the young Princess should at once give me her full confidence. The difference of years between her and me was too great ; she was besides of a somewhat reserved character, and I must say that happily and rightly she was always very careful as to speaking openly before people whom she did not know well. But all this was hard for me, and I had to pass a sad time before I at last succeeded in really winning my Princess's confidence, and drawing nearer to her. To the Crown Prince alone is due the merit of having, in the moment of danger when foreign influences threatened to come between him and her, preserved her from them by his fidelity, his truth, and steadfastness. My one endeavour too at this time was to put before the noble young wife, as often as I could, the principle that no one should possess her full confidence, no one should be her adviser, excepting her husband.

‘ On April 1 the Prince and Princess went to Potsdam for some months, and this at once put an end to the machinations of evil men. The Princess with loving caution followed closely her husband’s guidance ; he led her back to herself, and her truly noble soul found itself again in untroubled harmony with itself, and with her own pure will and aspirations. Every disturbing element had disappeared, and now there began for her, by the side of the best of husbands, as contented and happy a life of home affections and love as can possibly be imagined.

‘ The better one learnt to know the Princess, the more was one struck with the perfect nobility and purity of her nature, and the angelic goodness of her heart. Above all, the deepest and most heartfelt sense of religion pervaded her whole being, and adorned her with all the loveliest virtues of woman and those most pleasing to God. In May the Crown Prince, and the other Princes of the Royal family, were forced to take the field for the suppression of the Polish insurrection, and we passed the summer with the Crown Princess at Sanssouci.

‘ The Prince only returned to Berlin in September, and a fortnight later, October 7, 1794, in

consequence of an unlucky fall, the Crown Princess was delivered of a stillborn daughter. In this sorrowful time, I perceived with admiration how entirely her pious heart submitted to the will of the Most High. Without a murmur at the bitter disappointment of her greatest wish, she showed such calmness and quietness in her sorrow as only a great mind could be capable of. She suffered also terribly; but in her worst agony she was so obedient to the physicians, and so patient, that she greatly contributed to the preservation of her health from any further bad effect of this misfortune. All the greater was her joy when, in the following year, on October 15, 1795, she gave birth to her second child, a prince, who received the name of Frederick William. The happiness at the Court of our beloved young Princess now reached its highest perfection, and the lives of all around her were peaceful and cheerful, as she shared her happiness with, and showed her kindness to, all who came near her. I was as happy as it is possible to be at Court. We spent the winter and summer at Berlin, spring and autumn at Potsdam, and the years succeeded each other peacefully and contentedly.'

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In the summers of 1794 and 1795, the Crown Prince's household had spent some months in Oranienburg. The Crown Prince now purchased for 30,000 thalers the property of Paretz, near Potsdam, where later, when the house was built, they always spent a part of the finest season, in unostentatious retirement. In 1796 they visited Neu-Strelitz, and on leaving there spent a night at Gross-Giewitz, to make acquaintance with the country home of their beloved old mistress of the household. We will insert a few leaves from the diary, giving an account of this little journey.

‘July 15, 1796.

‘We made our little preparations for the journey to Strelitz. The King went the day before yesterday to Pymont, an unfortunate journey, quite alone with Countess Lichtenau. The physicians gave in at last, but they did not wish him to go to Rheinsberg.

‘He left on the 13th, and we this afternoon; the Prince and Princess in the first, and I and the waiting-maid in the second carriage. We had a very frugal supper at Oranienburg, and after resting for the night started on the 16th, at five

o'clock in the morning, to continue our journey. In the afternoon at five o'clock we reached Hohen-Zieritz. The Duke, who was to be taken by surprise, and knew nothing of our coming, was away with his nephew, and on his return there was naturally great joy on both sides.'

' July 17.

' Dinner with the company, who came from Strelitz to Zieritz. In the evening we remained alone with the Duke.'

' July 18.

' We all took a long walk. In the evening *ombres chinoises*.'

' July 19.

' To Strelitz. Dinner and tea in the garden ; it was charming. But, alas ! the French have again defeated the Austrians and are all over the place.'

' July 20.

' Great dinner. Plassen, Hahn, and Moltke came, and remained till six o'clock in the evening.'

' July 21.

' To Prince Ernest's at Pieversdorf. I sent notice to Giewitz, as the Prince and Princess informed me they wished very much to go there.'

‘ July 24.

‘ Sunday. Great dinner; alone in the evening; *ombres chinoises*.’

‘ July 25.

‘ To Ivenack. A quantity of people there.’

‘ July 26.

‘ Remained quietly at Strelitz.’

‘ July 27.

‘ To Milzow, which is beautifully situated.’

‘ July 28.

‘ A quiet day. In the evening I drove alone to Gross-Giewitz.’

‘ July 29.

‘ I arrayed the guest chambers a little for the company, who were to stay over night with me. They came at ten o’clock in the morning, got a fresh relay of horses here, and I went on with them to Remplin. The establishment there is very pretty, but extremely badly arranged. In the evening at six o’clock we returned to Gross-Giewitz. I had had the garden and the great chestnut avenue leading down to the lake illuminated with a quantity of coloured lamps; it was a lovely evening, and the lighted garden was very pretty, and the supper very well arranged. I had

had another cook from Strelitz to help, and everything was as good as possible. Prince Ernest did not come, only the old Duke, the Prince and Princess, Schulenberg, Bülow, Howe, and Graefe, who all remained for the night, and their servants.'

' July 30.

' We had a *déjeuner dinatoire*, and then all drove back at once to Hohen-Zieritz, except the Crown Prince, who went round by Rothmannshagen; and I followed an hour later. In the evening we had a little dance, which ended pretty soon after supper.'

' August 1.

' We started at five o'clock in the morning, and by dint of innumerable relays reached Berlin at four o'clock in the afternoon.'

The rest of the summer was spent in Paretz, and the autumn in Potsdam, until winter recalled the Crown Prince's household to Berlin.

Up to this time, the untroubled tenor of their young lives had been so exceptionally happy and joyful, that the first sorrow that befell them in the loss of Prince Louis came upon them as a twofold surprise and shock. The

Crown Prince was extremely fond of this brother, who stood so near him in age. How sudden and unexpected his death was, is best shown in a leaf out of the diary of Countess von Voss.

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'December 18, 1796.

'Sunday. No one went to church, in consequence of the bitter cold. In the evening a Court was held by the Queen at Volants. Count Narischkin was presented, who has been sent to announce the accession of the Emperor Paul I.'

'December 19.

'Only Princess Louis, Brühl, and Brandis at dinner with us. There were some theatricals at Countess Lichtenau's, who had sent us all invitations; the ladies and gentlemen of the Court all went excepting me. She gave herself great airs at this party, as I was afterwards told. The King was also there.

'God knows how all this grieves and troubles me for him! We had tea and supper at Prince Louis's, as Princess Taxis leaves to-morrow.'

'December 20.

'Our Prince and Princess accompanied Princess

Taxis to Potsdam. They started at seven o'clock in the morning, and returned at two o'clock in the afternoon. The evening by ourselves, which is always the pleasantest.'

'December 21.

'We dined at Court with the King. Princess Louis went away early. She is anxious, because the Prince is rather feverish.'

'December 22.

'To dinner with the Queen; the King was also there. In the evening the Princess of Orange and Princess Henry were with us.'

'December 23.

'Everybody went round the Christmas fair. We dined alone. Prince Louis is very ill; he suffers a great deal of pain, and they fear something of gastric fever.

'December 24.

'Dinner at the Oranges'. Evening at the Christmas fair. The Crown Prince made me a present of a lovely gold snuff-box. Prince Louis is so seriously ill that they are very anxious about him, and this has sadly damped our Christmas pleasure. The whole Royal family were together with us, and a number of pretty

little tables were arranged, on which the Princes and Princesses each had their presents.'

'December 25.

'Prince Louis is rather easier to-day. I went there to see the Princess. Thank God, he is better. Our Princes and the Prince of Zweibrucken came to tea with us. Then there was a reception at the Queen's, at which the King appeared for a moment.'

'December 26.

'Alas! our poor Prince Louis is past hope. We went this morning early to the Princess's. Sell was sent for, but he also said the same. I went for a moment to the old Princess Henry, and after dinner again to Princess Louis's, with whom the Prince and Princess remained nearly the whole day. The King also came, and gave my daughter a superb piece of very rich material for a train.'

'December 27.

'We were anxious and sorrowful all day about our poor Prince. Dinner at home, and in the evening to Princess Louis's.'

'December 28.

'A sad unhappy day! Poor Prince Louis

died this evening at a quarter to eleven. We had been by ourselves at dinner, and then I went over to Prince Louis's palace, and saw at once by Sell's face that the poor Prince was dying. The King and Queen were both with him for a long time, and the leave-taking at his dying-bed was heartbreaking. The Crown Prince and the other brothers and sisters wept aloud. The poor Princess came to us at one o'clock that night, and remained for the night with Countess Brühl in our palace.'

'December 29.

'Sorrowful day! All the Royalties came to us. The poor widow was beside herself with grief, and we all wept with her. The Crown Prince was feverish and unwell, and they gave him some medicine. It is grief that makes him ill. The Royalties dined by themselves. The Princess of Orange came to supper.'

'December 30.

'The Royal family dined alone. The King and Queen came to us in the evening, and the latter remained to supper. The Court mourning is fixed for three months.'

'December 31.

'The day passed like yesterday. The Queen

remained till towards evening. Prince Louis was quite simply and quietly buried. Sixteen lieutenants carried the coffin to the hearse, and again lifted it from thence. The Princess cried a great deal, but is calmer and more collected than yesterday. The poor Crown Prince is much upset.'

'January 1, 1797.

'The beginning of a New Year : may God grant that we may pass through it with fewer sins than the past one.

'There was a family dinner, but quite amongst ourselves, as the Crown Prince was unwell and had a bad sore throat. In the evening the King and Queen came, but did not stay to supper. The King was in a very cheerful humour, in spite of our misfortune.'

'January 2.

'I was with the Queen Dowager, who has fever. The Crown Prince was better in the morning, but in the evening the fever returned, with very bad sore throat. The King and Queen came. God alone can help us. Our anxiety about our Prince is indescribable.'

'January 3.

'The Crown Prince is very ill, and since to-

day in great danger. He cannot breathe, speak, or swallow. The doctor says it is quinsy. We are all becoming anxious beyond expression. Towards evening he was a little better. The King came late, and remained for a couple of hours by his bed, and then the Queen also came. At nine o'clock the Crown Prince was calmer. The children were all here, also Princess Augusta.'

'January 4.

'He is better! Many visits in the afternoon to the Crown Princess. In the evening the King came, and then the Queen. The old Queen is very ill, but the Crown Prince, thank God, is decidedly better. The Minister Voss came to see me, very unhappy at their having taken away from him the little Ingenheim, whom he was so fond of.'

'January 5.

'As yesterday. The Royalties alone at dinner and also at supper. The King comes every evening. He also went into the sick-room to see the Crown Prince, who is pretty well. He is always extremely gracious to me. The old Queen is very bad, and I have great fears for her.'

‘January 6.

‘The Crown Prince is very ill again to-day; there is a return of the quinsy. He had terrible pain in his head, throat, and ears, and Brown was quite beside himself, but towards afternoon there was some improvement. The old Queen is very bad: she wanders. I have been to see her twice. The King came, but did not go in to the Prince. Thank God, he is a little better this evening. Since his illness, the Crown Princess has not left her husband for a moment.’

‘January 7.

‘As yesterday. The King comes every evening. The old Queen is desperately ill; I go every day twice to see her.’

‘January 8.

‘The Royalties alone all day. The King comes as usual in the evening. The old Queen still worse than yesterday.’

‘January 9.

‘The Prince is much better to-day, but cannot leave his room. God has heard our prayers, and given him back to us! To-morrow is the funeral ceremony for our poor Prince Louis. A terrible noise was made over the preparations. I went with the Crown Princess to see

the catafalque, which is very fine. Princess Louis is pretty well, but very unhappy. Prince Henry was with her. Rougemont and Münchhausen are still here.'

'January 10.

'The day of the funeral obsequies of the good and beloved Prince Louis. They began at ten, and lasted till twelve o'clock. The coffin, covered with silver brocade, was carried by officers. The Ministers of State and the Knights of St. John followed; it was very grand and beautiful. The Crown Prince went with the Crown Princess to the corner-room to see the procession pass, and Princess Louis also saw it from there, with Countess Brühl and myself. Both the Princesses cried a great deal. In the evening the King came, and remained a couple of hours. He has caught a bad cold. Prince Henry is also ill; and the Queen Dowager gets constantly weaker. It is really dreadful. The Princess of Orange and Princess Augusta were at the Belle Vue for the funeral ceremony.'

'January 13.

'The Queen Dowager was worse to-day. They came and told us she was dead, but it was not true. The Crown Prince wished me to go to

her. I remained with her till eight o'clock, and she died at the very moment I was leaving her. I went in again to see her, and cried for a long time with her ladies. Then I returned home. The Crown Prince was much overcome with the news. The master of the household, d'Orville, informed the King and the Crown Prince of it. In spite of her great age, her death is a terrible loss to me. Mourning will be put on to-morrow. It will be three months' deep mourning in wool and crape veils, and three months' in silk.'

'January 15.

'To-day the obsequies of Prince Louis took place. I was in the cathedral with Princess Augusta, the only one of the Royalties. It was really impossible for any of the others to go. We were all in the deepest mourning for the good Queen, and wore two black veils, one of which fell over the face. We are scarcely recognisable.'

'January 28.

'The Princess of Orange came late, as she had been to tea with Fräulein Knesebeck, where the King was also with Countess Lichtenau. The King is better again.'

‘January 29.

‘The King came in for an hour. He was very gracious and amiable. ‘At six o’clock I went to the ladies of the late Queen. She was carried to the hearse by the gentlemen-in-waiting in a black velvet-covered coffin, with silver handles, and so taken without any parade to the cathedral. The gentlemen and ladies of the whole Court followed, and also those ladies who had formerly been with her, but all quite quietly. Reuss, as high steward, followed the coffin into the vault.’

‘January 30.

‘The King was here this morning. I saw him. He looks very ill. He offered Schönhausen to the Prince and Princess, but they would not accept it. I heard that he then offered it to Princess Henry. But an establishment there is too expensive for her, and she also declined.’

‘February 1.

‘The Crown Prince has received the legacy left to him by the Queen Dowager, which consists of pictures.’

‘February 5.

‘The Minister Buch came to give over the diamonds of the Queen to the Crown Princess, for her use, by order of the King.’

‘February 11.

‘We dined with the Crown Princess. The Prince dined with the King. In the evening there was a great supper at the King’s. I played with the King. All the Princes and Princesses were there.’

‘February 12.

‘A party at the King’s, which lasted till late.’

‘February 13.

‘To-day was the wedding-day of Princess Augusta and the Elector of Hesse. The King was present. A lottery was arranged, and the crowd was fearful. It lasted, however, only till a little after eleven o’clock. The Landgrave was made a Field-Marshal, and the Prince received the great order in diamonds.’

‘February 14.

‘Reception at the King’s.’

‘February 15.

‘We had the dinner to-day. In the evening the Queen came to see the Crown Prince, who was rather unwell. Then she went with the Hereditary Princess of Cassel and our Princess to the opera. I also went with Gaudy. They gave ‘Atalanta.’ Weissenstein’s decorations are beauti-

ful—the whole very well done. The Landgrave was full of gratitude ; the Hereditary Prince, as usual, like a stick.'

'February 16.

'This evening there was a reception at the Princess of Cassel's, and then at the Queen's. The King came, but did not play or sup with them.'

'February 17.

'Alone at dinner. In the evening a ball at the King's. Our Prince could not go out yet. There was an immense number of people at Court, and many strangers. The King was apparently better, and talked a great deal to me, but did not stay to supper, and we only remained till eleven o'clock.'

'February 18.

'The Hereditary Prince of Schwerin, our Prince, and the Crown Princess breakfasted with me. In the evening Himmel's opera of 'Semi-ramis' was given, which is very fine. The ballet which followed, 'Raoul de Créqui,' is pretty, but the whole lasted so long that it was hardly possible to sit it out. The King came into the big box at the commencement of the ballet, and talked a great deal to me, as usual.'

‘February 19.

‘We were alone at dinner as usual. In the evening there was a ball at the Queen’s, but they only danced till supper time. All was over at eleven o’clock. The King played.’

‘February 20.

‘We had a ball. The whole town was there, excepting the Queen and Prince and Princess Ferdinand, who were ill. The King came, but did not stay to supper. He talked for a long time to me. The ball only lasted till midnight.’

‘February 21.

‘The Prince of Schwerin dined with us. In the evening was given the opera of ‘Armida,’ which lasted over four hours, with a long ballet afterwards. Then they all supped at home.’

‘February 22.

‘The little Prince of Neuwied came to dinner. In the evening there was a ball at Prince Ferdinand’s, who, however, did not appear, as he was still ill. The King came, but did not remain to supper, nor did the Queen. The little Solms and the little Arenberg were dressed in white, one as Justice, and the other as Generosity. The little Schwerin was the god Hymen, and the little

Satory, Cupid. 'God save the King' was sung, and the children strewed flowers. They danced till supper time, then two little operettas were performed, and finally there were fireworks.'

'February 23.

'Princess Henry's birthday—the former "*divina*" or "*belle fée*." Dinner at the King's, who, however, did not appear, as he is unwell. We went first to her, then to their Majesties, then to tea at the Radziwills', where Princess Louisa dressed up, and repeated some verses. The Queen and all the Princes were there. Then we went home, and after supper to the masquerade, where we remained till one o'clock, and found it very tiresome.'

'February 24.

'Great dinner at the Queen's. The Landgrave took his departure. The Crown Prince accompanied him to Potsdam.'

'February 28.

'Count Byland woke me about seven o'clock. The Princess of Orange had given birth to a son at five o'clock. I sent word to the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, and then we all went to congratulate. Dinner with the Princess of Cassel, where were the King, Princess Louis, and the

Cassel household. We spent the evening alone, and then went at ten o'clock to the masquerade, where a quadrille of genii was formed, who were neither geniuses nor genial!

'We remained till one o'clock. This is the last entertainment in honour of Princess Augusta's marriage, and to-morrow deep mourning will be again resumed.'

'March 1.

'The illustrious grandmother came at twelve o'clock from Strelitz, and we had at dinner the Duke of Holstein, the Prince of Meiningen, and the Grand Duchess, and in the evening the young Prince and Princess of Neuwied, our whole household, and that of Princess Louis. It was very noisy and not at all pleasant.'

'March 2.

'Princess Louis's birthday. Mourning was not laid aside. She had begged the Princesses not to go to her. Only the Princess of Cassel and her husband and the King came, who gave her a very handsome watch. I gave her a large blooming rose-bush. The Crown Prince went out for a walk, whilst his father was still paying his visit, which he very much disapproved of.'

‘ March 4.

‘ The Crown Prince was not quite well, and did not appear. The Princess dined alone with him. The Prince of Schwerin and the Prince of Neuwied came in, in the evening, but the Crown Princess only came in for a moment, and she went back at once to the Prince ; she is a wonderful woman, and fulfils all her duties admirably.’

‘ March 10.

‘ My Princess’s birthday. All the Princes came except Prince Ferdinand and the Landgravine, who were ill. The King came, and gave her a number of pretty things. I gave her a cup with a portrait of the little prince. We dined with the King, and then went to the Princess of Orange, where the christening took place. In the evening we were by ourselves, with only the Prince of Schwerin.’

‘ March 11.

‘ My birthday. Sixty-eight years has Providence permitted me to live ; may He grant me grace in the time that remains to me, ever more and more to strive against and lay aside my faults.

‘ I went to the Princess’s, and she and the Crown Prince gave me a beautiful chandelier and

a piece of fine India muslin. My daughter gave me a charming bracelet of her hair.'

' March 14.

' We dined with the King, where also was the Landgravine of Cassel. Then we went to the Princess of Orange, and in the evening to an opera at Countess Lichtenau's, where all the Courts were present. The performance was very good, but when one thinks of what this woman is, and how objectionable her position is, it is dreadful to be obliged to go to her. Later there was a family supper at the Queen's, where they did nothing but cry, because poor Princess Augusta of Cassel goes away to-morrow.'

' March 15.

' The Hereditary Prince of Cassel and his wife really went off this morning. The King was much moved ; the Crown Prince and his brother accompanied them to Magdeburg. The King came in at seven o'clock in the evening, and stayed a couple of hours with us. Himmel played the piano to us. The King was very sorrowful.'

' March 16.

' Prince George's birthday. I gave a *déjeûner* for him in my rooms, which was very inconvenient to me. The Princes all came, even Prince

Henry and the Prince of Orange. They made a horrid noise.'

' March 21.

'The King came towards six o'clock, remained till seven, and then took leave because he is going for good to Potsdam.'

' March 22.

'The Crown Princess was unwell during the night; when I went up to her I was convinced that she would be confined to-day, but she laughed and would not believe me, and at a quarter before two the child was happily born. It is a noble little prince. Everywhere there was great, great joy. The King had already gone to Potsdam; Köckritz went immediately to announce it to him, and came back very well pleased and rewarded. The Queen came at once to us.'

' March 26.

'*Sunday.*—Grandmamma went to the *gens-d'armes* church. The King came and dined quietly here. The day of the christening was fixed for April 3. The Princess and the little prince are very well. In the afternoon grandmama went to the Queen, and Princess Louis to Frau von Radziwill. The Princess was carried into the corner-room, but the Crown Prince un-

fortunately makes a great deal of noise, which is very bad for the invalid.'

'March 29.

'The Princess and the little prince, thank God, are very well and bright. We dined and spent the evening alone. The Crown Prince went to a picnic.'

'March 30.

'The Princess, thank God, is quite well, and got up for the first time, as it was the ninth day. The Crown Prince was full of joy, but he made a great deal more noise than he ought to have done, and even opened a window; but one can say nothing. The Queen, who was very suffering, came while we were at dinner, and the young Princes came in the evening. In the afternoon Princess Henry and Princess Ferdinand came also, and the many visits have tired the Crown Princess very much.'

'April 2, Sunday.

'The grandmother and Princess Louis went to church. We remained quietly at home. The unfortunate Austrians have been twice defeated in Italy; things are going very badly. Alas! alas!'

'April 3.

'The christening day. The Crown Prince

came from Potsdam at twelve o'clock ; the Queen, the Prince, and the Princesses all dined here, and all the ministers and generals. The King also came to town, but not to dinner. Immediately after dinner they all went to the Royal mother, and thence to the audience chamber, and when all were assembled I came in with the ladies-in-waiting ; I carried the Royal child, and presented it to the King. Sack performed the christening ceremony. The names were Frederick William Louis, but he is to be called William. After the ceremony the King gave me back the little prince, and was particularly gracious to me. We went back to the Crown Princess, and the King went away. The others remained with grandmama. In the evening all went to the Queen ; we remained at home, and the Crown Prince alone with the Crown Princess.'

'April 4.

The Crown Princess dined again for the first time with the Crown Prince. After dinner all went to the Radziwills, where the little newborn prince received Catholic baptism. The King made Frau von Radziwill a present of a large single diamond. I only went there for a moment, and then remained alone with the Crown Princess.

In the evening the King came to supper with us, and at nine o'clock returned to Potsdam, which I was very glad of, as the Crown Princess was really very tired with all these visits.'

'April 5.

'Grandmama and Princess Louis dined with the Queen and spent the evening at the Ferdinands, which was a very good thing. I received a great many visits, and spent the rest of the day with the Crown Princess.'

'April 9.

'*Sunday.*—The Princess of Orange was churched to-day. The Crown Prince came from Potsdam with Köckritz, and dined alone with the Crown Princess; we dined with Princess Louis, who then went to the Radziwills, and the Crown Prince went away at nine o'clock. The King is unwell; Frau von Lichtenau was with me, and talked to me a great deal about him. This woman says a great deal more than she can substantiate: she is a terrible person.'

'April 10.

'At one o'clock the Lord Chamberlain brought me a friendly little note from the King, and a crystal locket set in large diamonds, which he sent to me as a present. I was quite beside myself

with pleasure at so much kindness from him, and went to the Princess and to every one in the palace to show the locket. Then I wrote to the King in answer to his letter, which I here subjoin :—

“ I feel sure, Madame, that your attachment is sufficient to preserve in your memory the memento when at his baptism you presented to me the youngest of my grandsons ! I flatter myself, however, that I shall recall it to you still better by proving to you that I do not forget it either, and beg of you to accept, in memory of that day, the trifling mark of esteem with which I accompany this letter ; being, Madame, your very affectionate

“ FREDERICK WILLIAM.

“ Potsdam : April 9, 1797.”

‘ April 17.

‘ The Crown Princess went out for the first time on the 15th, as it was so fine, and as the doctor wished it ; she went out again this morning with me, and in the afternoon again with the Crown Prince.’

‘ April 18.

‘ I drove with the Princess ; thank God she is very well. It is said that the Austrians have really beaten the French. What joy !’

‘April 29.

‘This evening we had a reception for congratulations to the Princess.’

‘April 30.

‘The Crown Princess was churched at the cathedral. She was very much touched and affected. Then I went out walking with her, and we dined with Princess Louis at the Queen’s. After dinner a great many visitors came, and then the Ferdinands to tea, and the Oranges to supper. The second Prince of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Prince Gustavus, has arrived; he is a Major, and I like him better than his elder brother.’

‘May 1.

‘I drove with the Crown Princess to Potsdam, where the Crown Prince has been staying for the last week; he was very gracious and kind on seeing me again. In the evening an operetta was given at the theatre. The King was not there; we had met him as he drove half-way to Berlin to meet Countess Lichtenau; so he must certainly be better.’

‘May 4.

‘I spent a very dull morning; then the Princess came and breakfasted with me. Frau von Zastrow and the officers of the staff came to dinner,

after dinner I drove with the Crown Princess and the Princes to Sanssouci ; we went into the wood from which the colonnade is being removed, to be placed in the new garden.'

' May 5.

' Some officers of the Crown Prince's regiment dined with us ; the dinner lasted very long, and when at two o'clock at last I found myself alone again, the Vierecks came in. In the evening the Prince and Princess were in the garden ; at seven o'clock we go up to tea with them, and at ten everything is over and we go to bed.'

' May 6.

' Count Dönhoff and two officers, Viereck and Lindenau, came to dinner ; in the evening the Prince of Neuwied.'

' May 7.

' We dined with the King in his garden. He is failing very much, alas ! I am in despair to see how visibly he is changing. About five o'clock we went to the operetta ; the King was there also incognito, and the Queen came unexpectedly from Berlin with Wittgenstein and Gaudy ; took supper afterwards with us, and drove back later.'

‘May 14.

‘This afternoon we went with the Prince and Princess to see the King in the new garden ; he is better. We had a great collation there ; the Queen was also there, and Countess Lichtenau and all the King’s children ; then we went to the operetta, and the Queen came to supper with us.’

‘May 15.

‘We went to Paretz to see the place ; I was much disappointed, for it is not at all pretty ; even the house which is being built is not in proper proportions ; the situation is positively ugly, and only the garden is tolerable. We came home at eight o’clock.’

‘May 16.

‘The Princess dined at Sanssouci, and found the King somewhat better, but he did not appear at table. However, he had been on horseback to see a review. In the afternoon my Princess held a drawing-room.’

‘May 17.

‘This was the first day of the spring manœuvres. The Crown Princess and her ladies-in-waiting drove out to see them, and we had several officers to dinner ; the Crown Prince dined with the King at Sanssouci ; the King was

alone with Count Wartensleben. After dinner the Queen came; in the evening we went to the theatre, which lasted an endless time, and where we nearly died of the heat. At supper we had all the generals and the Prince of Mecklenburg.'

'May 18.

'The Crown Princess dined with the King at Sanssouci, and towards evening we drove back to Berlin, and visited on the way the camp at Müncheberg and the regiment of grenadiers, where the Princess stopped and spoke very nicely to the soldiers, who had cheered her.'

'May 24.

'A frightful number of people were with me the whole morning; we dined at Schönhausen with Köckritz, the young Princes, the Prince of Brunswick, and the Oranges. I was with Frau von Brühl, and we drank tea in the garden. The sight of this old garden, to me so full of recollections, affected me greatly. After supper the Prince of Brunswick wrestled with Prince William, had a fall in consequence, and hurt his knee very much; that is the punishment of such childishness.'

‘ May 28.

‘ Before dinner we went to Montbijou, then to Princess Henry, to tell her that to-morrow the father of the Crown Princess would pass through here on his way to Hildburghausen. In the evening we went to Schönhausen ; we found the King there. He has grown very thin, but is better.’

‘ May 29.

‘ The Duke came at one o’clock ; Princess Louis came over with her ladies, but the Crown Prince was obliged to go to a little dinner of the King’s at Potsdam. At seven the Duke went away ; the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess accompanied him for a few miles, and only came back at nine o’clock. After supper Count Vengersky gave me some very pretty music as a serenade.’

‘ June 2.

‘ As usual dined alone. In the evening the Prince and Princess went to the Dewitzes, where there was a *thé dansant*, and then the Oranges came here to supper.’

‘ June 4.

‘ First day of Whitsuntide. All went to church. Prince Henry came to dinner ; at four

o'clock we went to the operetta given by the King, where the whole Court, Countess Lichtenau, and a host of people were present. The King is worse again, and is to go to Pymont. God grant that he may return thence. He was very cheerful, in spite of his sufferings, talked a great deal to me, and remained at supper till eleven o'clock.'

'June 5.

'Second day of Whitsuntide. I went to St. Mary's Church and heard quite a wonderful sermon. My daughter and Schilden dined with us; the Prince and Princess spent the whole day at Schönhausen *en famille*. The Turkish ambassador arrived at four o'clock, but has not yet been received.'

'June 6.

'We had a large dinner party; Princess Henry and her household, Count Nikitoff, the Emperor Paul's ambassador, &c., were here. It was very good and well done. We spent the evening with the King at Charlottenburg, and he showed us his new rooms. There was a concert and then supper. The King was very pleasant and amiable, talked and laughed a great deal; may God preserve him to us.'

‘ June 7.

‘ We dined by ourselves ; the morning is now always spent at the ranger’s. In the evening we were with the Oranges at Schönhausen, the Minister Alvensleben was there also. Princess Louis is to go with us to Pymont ; the King wishes it, and I am very glad of it for her sake.’

‘ June 11.

‘ The young Princes dined with us ; in the evening we went to an operetta at the King’s ; he was very weak, talked to me for a long time, but did not remain to supper. The Prince of Orange remained at Berlin to receive the Princess of England, who has married the Prince of Würtemberg, and arrives to-day.’

‘ June 12.

‘ General Rüchel came to dinner with his aides-de-camp, Count Moritz Brühl and Seckendorf, who was with Prince Louis. The Prince and Princess drove to the ranger’s in the afternoon ; the Schönhausen party was there also, and all came back to supper with us.’

‘ June 15.

‘ The Turkish ambassador had his audience of the King ; he is named Azis Effendi. Before this

we breakfasted with the King and the Schönhäusen party, and I thought the King much better again. About twelve o'clock then the ambassador arrived in a Royal state carriage with six horses; Count R—— drove with him. Behind this came a led horse of the King's in full trappings, then came another Royal carriage with six horses, and several carriages and pairs with his suite. Count Podewills presented the envoy; all the ministers and generals stood near the throne in the knights' hall; the King, with his hat on, under the canopy, and the Princes at his side. The Turk made his speech, which an interpreter translated, and Count Finkenstein answered it; then he made two low bows, presented his credentials, and withdrew. We dined *en famille* with the Queen, so did the King and Countess Lichtenau. In the evening all went to the ranger's, and then came to supper here.'

‘June 16.

‘Every morning we walk with the Crown Princess to the ranger's, and remain there till dinner time. This evening the King had a small concert, and I thought him much better than yesterday, in a very good humour, and very busy about his journey. He talked a great deal to

me about it ; Princess Louis is to travel with him, and I wish we were going with him also, that he might not be so much alone with Countess Lichtenau.'

'June 17.

'We dined alone. After dinner the Turk had an audience of the Crown Prince first, and then of the Crown Princess, but not in the best room—the Prince would not allow it. He had only his dragoman with him. In the evening we went to Schönhausen.'

'June 21.

'The King was very bad yesterday, in spite of which he has started to-day. God grant that this journey may do him good ! We remained alone this evening with the young Princes, who made a noise to their hearts' content.'

'June 22.

'Schilden has gone to Carlsbad. We dined at Belle Vue, where was also Prince Henry, whom I cannot bear. In the evening Reck had tea and a ball in his garden, where the Queen was also present. The Turk entertained himself immensely, everything amused him. We received news that the King had had a good night, but was very much exhausted. In the evening the

Schönhausen Court came to supper. Princess Louis started for Pymont alone with Countess Brühl, Frau von Knobelsdorff, and a waiting-woman.'

'July 4.

'We went to see the circus-riders; the Prince and Princess from Schönhausen were there also. It is really astonishing what feats they can perform; they are the first I have seen; in former days nothing of the kind was known.'

'July 7.

'Count Goltz, Marshal von Hahn, and Bode came to dinner. Afterwards all went to the theatre, then to Frau von Radziwill's, where the Schönhausen Court was also. The Princes and Princesses played some games; I made up a rubber, and it lasted till one o'clock. In the morning, as usual, I walked with the Crown Princess to the ranger's.'

'July 8.

'At six o'clock a *thé dansant* at Princess Sacken's; thence to the Queen at Montbijou for supper, where, as usual, it was not very pleasant.'

'July 9.

'This evening at Schönhausen, where the

Queen was also. We eat our *götter* in the beautiful wood, where the recollections of many former days passed sadly and clearly before my eyes. So goes the world !'

' July 12.

' In the evening at the ranger's ; the Crown Princess came there on horseback after a long ride ; the weather was beautiful, and we had supper in the open air by torchlight.'

' July 14.

' Pastor Zöllner, who is our director and confessor, came and remained a long time with the Crown Princess.'

' July 15.

' At one o'clock we went to Pastor Zöllner for the preparation, at St. Nicholas. We did not dine till four, and on account of the heat only went out for a little walk late in the evening.'

' July 16.

' I rose very early, to go alone with the Crown Princess to the Holy Communion at St. Nicholas. We came home in very good time, and then went to church again later ; Zöllner's sermon was quite splendid. Köckritz went with us. Prince Henry came to dinner ; at six o'clock we drove to Pankow,

where Prince William gave tea and supper in his garden, and it was very nice. All the Schönhausen party were there; we only returned at eleven o'clock. I had bad news from Pymont; the King is no longer so well as at first, and particularly he is very weak. I tremble for him.'

'July 17.

'This evening a ball at Belle Vue in terrific heat. I played cards, remained only to supper, and then came home alone.'

'July 18.

'Thank God, good news of the King! He will be very glad that my Prince and Princess should go to Pymont, and that I should accompany them; this gives me the greatest pleasure. In the evening supper at the Thiergarten with the Schönhausen party.'

'July 19.

'The theatre this afternoon, then to Princess Henry, from her to the Landgravine; in the evening the theatre again, and then supper in the tents.'

'July 20.

'The Schönhausen Court dined with us to-day; the Crown Prince went to Paretz early this morning; we followed him in the afternoon, spent the

night there, and continued our journey, July 22, onwards to Hanover, where we arrived at midnight.'

'July 23.

'At five o'clock in the morning went on, and at two in the afternoon arrived at Pyrmont, and dined with the King, whom I found unhappily much worse than I had expected. A French play this afternoon that was very pretty, then a ball, and finally supper with the King, at which no one was present but himself, my Prince and Princess, Countess Lichtenau, and I.'

'July 24.

'Déjeûner at Meierfeld's, then we went about to the shops. Dinner with the King; at six all went to the Kursaal, where there was dancing, and then to supper with the King, who was pretty well to-day.'

'July 25.

'Déjeûner with the King, who, thank God, is better again. Then there was dancing, and dinner again with the King. Afterwards the theatre and supper at the King's, but he did not himself appear again.'

'July 26.

'Déjeûner with Dewitz. Dinner with the

King. I was out a great deal in the afternoon ; in the morning too I went with Wittgenstein to the Königstein, which is very pretty. In the evening theatre.'

' July 27.

' Déjeûner with Herr von Witzleben. Theatre. The Kielmannsegges with their wives, the Duke of Holstein, the Prince of Würtemberg, and Prince Suboff came to see me. All very pleasant people.'

' July 28.

' Déjeûner with Herr von Gunterberg, a Dutchman, with a very pretty wife. In the afternoon drove to the saltworks, then had tea with the Kielmannsegges, where faro was played. Dinner and supper as usual with the King.'

' August 1.

' Déjeûner with Prince Suboff's aide-de-camp. Dinner with the King, at which, however, he did not appear. Theatre and supper again with him.'

' August 2.

' Déjeûner with Bronikowsky. Dinner ; theatre as usual.'

' August 3.

' Déjeûner with the King. Birthday of the

Crown Prince. Theatre and ball before dinner ; in the evening supper at the Kursaal, another ball till midnight, and great illuminations.'

' August 4.

' Déjeûner with Princess Louis. Dinner with the King. The Landgrave, the Duke, the Princes Ernest and Adolphus went away. After dinner theatre, the evening as usual.'

' August 5.

' Déjeûner with two Poles, Worowsky. I went for a drive in the hills with Count Wittgenstein. Dinner with the King. After dinner a great supper, a sort of *fête champêtre*, given by Herr von Holm on the Königsberg. It ended with an illumination of the whole mountain, and fireworks, and then a serenade for the King. All walked up and down the great avenue till quite late, and the King was very well.'

' August 7.

' Déjeûner at a Countess Landsberg's ; dinner and evening as usual.'

' August 8.

' Déjeûner with Wittgenstein, and then we all came away in the best and highest spirits ; Princess Louis with us ; in Hanover we had supper

with Prince Ernest, and remained in the garden with him till quite late.'

' August 9.

' Déjeûner with Prince Ernest. Dinner at Court, the evening at Monbrillant; I am enchanted with the delightful garden.'

' August 10.

' Great review. Déjeûner with Prince Ernest at Herrenhausen, then the King arrived and came to dinner at Monbrillant. The theatre very bad; supper at Monbrillant. My grandson Augustus came to see me from Göttingen, where he is studying, which pleased me much.'

' August 11.

' At eleven o'clock déjeûner with Prince Adolphus. My grandson was there with me. At one o'clock started for Brunswick; arrived there at ten in the evening, and had supper with the Duke.'

' August 12.

' Up at seven; went to the great annual fair, where I fainted in the crowd; but it passed off, and I remained there notwithstanding. In the afternoon went to the Hereditary Princess, in the evening to the masquerade.'

‘ August 13.

‘ We went to the museum, dined with the Duchess, and in the afternoon went to Frau von Hertefeld. In the evening a ball; after supper we took our leave, and got home at one o’clock.’

‘ August 14.

‘ At seven o’clock were on our road to Magdeburg, where we alighted at the Government buildings. This was a great pleasure to me from recollections of old times. We had supper, to which the Kalksteins came also; then we visited the cathedral, and in the evening the Prince and Princess were serenaded.’

‘ August 15.

‘ I went to General Rohe’s, and then with the Crown Princess to the Fürsten Wall. Great dinner at Kalstein’s, then the theatre, which was really very tolerable. A beautiful ode in honour of my Prince and Princess was also recited. Then supper and a dance in the hall of the Free Masons’ lodge.’

‘ August 16.

‘ Left Magdeburg and arrived at Potsdam at eleven o’clock in the evening, having dined on the way at Rochow’s, in Brandenburg.’

‘ August 17.

‘ At twelve o’clock we left Potsdam for Charlottenburg. Festive receptions everywhere. In Potsdam and Charlottenburg they had erected triumphal arches. I saw Köckritz and Schilden again, which gave me great pleasure. In the evening they all came from Schönhausen and stayed to supper.’

‘ August 20.

‘ The Crown Prince received a letter from the King, who wrote to him that the King of Sweden was coming here this evening incognito. He had dined with him in Potsdam, and the Crown Prince was to invite him and the Royal family for to-morrow. He arrived at ten o’clock, and Herr von Schilden went to him to give him the invitation, and he will come, but only under the name of Count von Hoyer.’

‘ August 21.

‘ We had the whole Royal family to dinner, with the King of Sweden and Count Taube. The latter does not please me. The King has a handsome face, is very fair, looks cool and resolute, and talks in an animated and engaging manner. He would not remain for the evening, was very civil, and went away after he had scrupulously returned all his visits.’

‘August 27.

‘The Crown Princess went to church; I could not go with her as I was not very well, and the Crown Princess came to see me twice in the course of the day.’

‘August 28.

‘The Royalties drove to Freienwalde at six o'clock in the morning. Fräulein Viereck was with them. I was rather better. My daughter, Keyserling, and Schilden were with me at dinner and in the evening.’

‘August 29.

‘The Crown Prince and Crown Princess were upset on their way back from Freienwalde by the Crown Princess's horses. Fräulein Viereck dislocated her arm, but no one else was hurt. In the evening we went with the young Princes to the ranger's.’

‘August 30.

‘We went to the Thiergarten. My Princess took a long ride. The young Princes came to supper.’

‘August 31.

‘In the afternoon Borghese and the Russian had a farewell audience. We then drove to Schönhausen, and had supper there.’

‘September 2.

‘We started at last to-day for Paretz, which is now ready, and where we could now for the first time be comfortably established. We waited in Potsdam to pick up Köckritz, and got here at two o’clock. The garden is not bad, and if it were not so damp might be made very tolerable. Several officers came to dinner, and we supped at nine o’clock.’

‘September 3.

‘We went to service held in a barn, as the church is not yet ready. The minister gave us a very good sermon. More officers to dinner. It rained the whole day. In the afternoon and evening I played billiards with the Crown Prince.’

‘September 4.

‘I was alone the whole day. The Royalties took a long walk before dinner, and rode the whole afternoon, till late into the evening.’

‘September 5.

‘Again alone all day. The Prince and Princess rode in the morning on horseback, and in the evening we all took a walk together.’

‘September 7.

‘The officers of the first battalion came to

dinner. The Crown Princess went out hunting with her husband, and only came back late in the evening.'

'September 8.

'General Röchel came to dinner. He talked very interestingly about St. Petersburg. A travelling menagerie arrived, which we went to see.'

'September 9.

'The Princess of Orange, the Prince, and Count Bylandt came about twelve o'clock, and later Count Blumenthal and Count Neale. The first-mentioned remained over night, the others only to dinner and supper. After dinner Countess Lichtenau came, and remained to tea. She had seen the King, who seems to be very weak and failing. Ah! how sad it all is!'

'September 10.

'The Bredows came, Major Ploetz, and the young Princes, with Schlieffen and Geoffrey. In the afternoon there was a harvest-home and dance for the people, and we all danced a little with them. Count Dönhoff, Franckenberg, and the Prince of Neuwied came later, but they all went away after tea; only the Princes remained to supper.'

‘September 11.

‘Officers to dinner. Prince George and Gräve came back from Wiesbaden. Captain Kleist came also to dinner, with a band of music. They were the officers of the 1st regiment of Guards, dressed as mountaineers, and played very well. The effect was charming. They remained till late in the evening, and then went on with Prince George to Strelitz. The Oranges are still here.’

‘September 12.

‘Prince William of B—— arrived unexpectedly, quite early in the morning. I do not like him ; he is rather rough, and as if accustomed to bad society. He has come to pay his respects here, but principally on account of Princess Louis, whom every one that sees falls in love with. The gentlemen went out hunting. In the evening we made a great excursion into the country, in great waggons covered with sacks ; it was quite charming. There were too many people for our carriages, there would not have been places enough. After our return we played at faro. The Prince of B—— remained over night.’

‘September 13.

‘Again to-day a great many officers to

dinner, with General Röder and Count Ingersleben. The Prince of B—— still remains. In the evening there was a ball in the steward's house, for the waiting-maids and so forth. Everybody danced with them, and I also danced with much pleasure a couple of minuets. We remained till ten o'clock, and then went to supper. The ball lasted till three o'clock.'

'September 14.

'Officers to dinner. The Prince and Princess of Orange and the Prince of B—— left to-day Gualtieri and the Prince of Neuwied came, and remained to supper, and then Count Brühl, who was lately in St. Petersburg.'

'September 15.

'We packed up to return to Berlin, which I am not very sorry for. Count Brühl remained to dinner, and at three o'clock we left. The Crown Prince rode as far as Potsdam.'

'September 16.

'I had a great deal to do. The Crown Princess drove from here to the manœuvres. After dinner we went to the theatre. The Prince came in the evening, with a Prince Solms of the Hussars, who seemed to me to be very empty-headed, and did not please me at all.'

‘September 17.

‘I went to church to hear Zöllner, who preached very well. The Hereditary Prince of Darmstadt came to dinner: a tall, fine-looking man, but holds himself badly. In the same way, his face is handsome, but stupid and expressionless. He had a Herr von Baumbach with him. Besides him came Prince Solms, General Kleist, a few Russian officers, and the Oranges, who were at Belle Vue. They all went to the theatre, and the two foreign Princes remained to supper.’

‘September 18.

‘The same Princes to dinner. After dinner Count P—— and Frau von Kollischeff were presented. She is the wife of the Russian ambassador at Copenhagen. In the evening we all went to the Queen’s. The King is still poorly. No one can make out the truth about him, nor see him. In Paris there have been more outbreaks on the 4th and 5th; matters get worse and worse. God only knows what terrible things may come of it. All prisoners are being sent out of the country.’

‘September 19.

‘The Crown Princess has not been very well, but drove in the evening to Schönhausen.’

‘September 21.

‘The Prince of Darmstadt has been at Potsdam with the King ; and Haugwitz, to present the Spanish ambassador, Marchetti. The King has appeared on horseback at the review. God grant that this improvement may last.’

‘September 24.

‘In church to hear Zöllner. At dinner the Princess Louis and her suite, the young Princes and the foreigners. They drove out in a “whisky ;” Princess Louis and the Princes remained to supper.’

‘September 25.

‘The birthday of our beloved King. May God restore his health. The Crown Princess wrote to him, and sent him a rose-coloured chair, which she was by way of having worked for him, and a table of old lacquer. He came over here from Potsdam, and the Princes went to him. We had a full-dress dinner, and then followed the audience of the Spanish minister, Marchetti. The King has grown very thin, but is a little stronger. The dinner was very long. All the “Excellencies” were invited. After dinner the King talked to me for a long time. In the evening there was a

ball at Montbijou, where the Queen has had a very pretty winter garden built. The King appeared, spoke to the ambassadors, and then talked a great deal to me. He told me also about his portrait, which he wished to give to the Crown Princess, and sent it to me directly after dinner. I admired a little china snuff-box which he was using, and he forced me to accept it. May God bless him. He was inexpressibly tender and loving to me. Unhappily he would not stay to supper, but supped alone with the Countess, which is quieter for him. I am very anxious about him. At home I repeated all he had said to the Prince and Princess, and they were very much pleased.'

'September 26.

'The usual Princes at dinner. In the afternoon we all went to the Academy to see the works of art which are there, and then to walk in the Thiergarten, and from there to the theatre.

'September 27.

'At six o'clock the Court and the whole town went to see the Artillery practice, which ended with fireworks.'

‘September 28.

‘Dinner at Schönhausen. In the evening at Montbijou with the Queen, who was expecting the Princess of Baden, who, however, arrived in Potsdam too late to come on here. The future Queen of Sweden is with her ; she is taking her to Stralsund.’

‘September 29.

‘The Princess of Baden arrived at eleven o’clock with her daughters, and went at once to Montbijou. The King came also, and had already been to Princess Louis. All the Royalties and all the “Excellencies” dined at Montbijou, also Prittwitz, the Hordts, and Heinitz. The King looked better, but was very short of breath, and went to sleep at dinner. The Princess of Baden is as arrogant as ever. The future Queen of Sweden has beautiful eyes, but is too thin, and has no manner. The younger Princess is prettier. Edelsheim is unaltered. A Herr von Wöllwarth is with them. After dinner we paid the Princess our visit. In the evening *en famille* with the Queen. They leave to-morrow.’

‘September 30.

‘We went again with the Crown Princess to take leave of the Badens, but met them on the

stairs. They went to breakfast with the Queen at Schönhausen. The foreign Princes with us at dinner and in the evening. Princess Louis has laid aside her deep mourning, and was to-day for the first time again in the theatre. She knows only too well how to console herself.'

'October 1.

'We had the Oranges and Princess Henry, Princess Louis and the foreign Princes to dinner. We went to tea with the Queen, when Princess Louis took leave, for which I thanked Heaven. Then we went to the theatre, and afterwards all came back with us to supper.'

'October 2.

'Princess Louis started to-day for Strelitz. We had the foreign Princes to dinner. After dinner the theatre, where the Queen also appeared. They gave a new piece of Iffland's, "Die Errinerung," which he had written for the King's birthday. The Queen invited us all to supper with her, and everybody went.'

'October 3.

'With the Crown Prince on foot to the Thiergarten; at twelve o'clock we came back, and went to déjeuner at Montbijou, where we had the foreign Princes. The Prince of Darmstadt

goes to-morrow to Strelitz. In the evening we were at the Belle Vue till midnight. They had little games, and I played cards with the old Princess.'

'October 5.

'At dinner that everlasting Prince Solms. They say the King is very bad. I hope and believe it is not true. We are invited by him to-morrow to tea, theatre and supper.'

'October 6.

'The Crown Prince went early this morning with the Prince of Solms and his aide-de-camp to Potsdam. The Crown Princess and I followed him in the afternoon, met the Queen at Zehendorf, and drove with her to the new gardens. Merciful God, what a sight! The King is weaker and thinner than ever; his voice is so weak it is difficult to understand him when he speaks. In spite of it he went to the theatre, but he cannot breathe; his mouth is always open, and he is really in a dreadful state! From the theatre he went to his own rooms and supped with the Countess, who did not appear at tea. We supped at the palace, and left about eleven o'clock. The road was bad, but we got home by one o'clock.'

‘October 8.

‘They say the King is the same, or a little better; but what does that mean?’

‘October 9.

‘Haugwitz told me he had better news of the King. God preserve him!’

‘October 11.

‘Very bad news of the King. I am beside myself with anxiety about him. He hardly knows those around him. The Countess is always with him, and none of his children can go to him. Is it not dreadful! Little Prince William has much fever, in consequence of having been inoculated. The Oranges came to supper, but all is care and sorrow for the King.’

‘October 12.

‘I am full of the deadliest anxiety for our poor dear King, who is quite without consciousness, and terribly ill. They have again sent for Braun and Sell. My room is full of inquirers all day long, which is dreadful to me. In the evening we went to the Queen’s, as the Princess of Baden had returned from Stralsund. Only the Royal family was there. Braun came from the King, and said he was past hope, but the end is

not near. Ah! it is too dreadful. I cannot sleep to-day for sorrow and restlessness.'

'October 13.

'He is still very ill, and does not know what he says. Both the physicians believe that this melancholy state of things may last a long time, without its leading to a speedy termination. My God! how terrible. The calmness of the Prince and Princess breaks my heart. We dined at home, although the Queen had invited us to dinner. But we were obliged to go to her in the evening, on account of the Princess of Baden. There was a great supper, and many people there. I think it is too bad, at such a terrible moment!'

'October 14.

'We got news that the King was a little better. We were all full of joy, but Haugwitz told me it was not true. We were alone at dinner. In the evening *en famille* with the Queen.'

'October 15.

'Went to the service at the cathedral. Always the same sorrowful news from Potsdam. The young Princes at dinner. The Princess of Baden gave a dinner at the Swedish embassy.

My room is never free of inquirers after the King. The Queen was with him in Potsdam, and has seen him. He lies always on his sofa, and speaks very indistinctly, but was pleased to see her. The children are also to go there to-day. If the Countess, who is always with him, suffered it, he would willingly see his family often.'

'October 16.

'The Queen's birthday. She dined with us, with all the young Royalties. At supper we had also the foreigners, the bishops, and the Cabinet Ministers. Haugwitz was gone to Potsdam. In the evening we went to Montbijou. The news is always the same.'

'October 17.

'We had again a great dinner at Montbijou, at which were the Princess of Baden, Prince Ferdinand, and the Radziwills. Haugwitz came back after dinner. He had seen the King, who was very weak but quite himself. In the evening we had again to go and bore ourselves at Montbijou. Braun came from Potsdam, and said he found the weakness increasing.'

'October 18.

'The Crown Prince came with us to breakfast at eleven o'clock at Montbijou, and drove from

there to Potsdam with the Queen, who wished to accompany the Princess of Baden so far. Princess Louis is back from Strelitz, and with the others dined and spent the evening with us. All these young people make an incredible noise. The Crown Prince came back at eight o'clock, and said he had found his father better than he expected. The King had understood him, and it seemed as if he wished to see the Crown Princess, but the Countess was in the room the whole time.'

'October 20.

'The Crown Prince, the Crown Princess, and Princess Louis had some dinner at twelve o'clock, and drove at one o'clock to Potsdam. The Queen also went there with the Princess of Orange, all without ladies-in-waiting. On their return they told me they had found the King quite conscious, and pretty well, but very low.'

'October 27.

'Haugwitz brought very good news from Potsdam. The King was still conscious, and had been so without intermission since yesterday. It makes me quite happy.'

‘October 28.

‘The Darmstadts came to dinner. After dinner I presented to the Crown Princess Frau von Massenbach, *née* Seckendorf, a very pretty woman. Then came the theatre, and the evening at Princess Louis’s. I did not go with them, but remained at home alone, and played the piano the whole evening.’

‘October 30.

‘I try to get my mornings tolerably free to be able to occupy myself in quiet reading and writing, when visitors do not require me, but I seldom manage it. The King had seen Count Neuhaus, Maltitz, and Haugwitz. They say he is somewhat better.’

‘October 31.

‘In the evening the young Royalties came to us, the two Massows and Schrötter. I played whist with Massow, Köckritz, and Schliessen.’

‘November 3.

‘Haugwitz came to me before he went to the Crown Prince. He had seen the King, and found him completely conscious, but the tumour is increasing. I cannot say how it distresses me. Lützow came back from Baden, where the marriage of the younger Princess with the Hereditary

Prince of Gotha had taken place on the 21st. He is said to be very ugly, but clever; and I think she will be happier than the Queen of Sweden.'

'November 8.

'Sell came to me; he had found the King rather easier, and said there was slight hope he would be saved, but there is no rule without exception. God have mercy on him!'

'November 9.

'Prince Suboff arrived; I saw him drive by. He is living with the Margrave. Later he came to me at my toilette, also Counts Schulenberg and Schilden, who found him very agreeable. Schulenberg came to dinner. Then to tea with the Queen. I remained at home, and Suboff came to me. After tea I was sent for to sup with the Princess of Orange.'

'November 11.

'Great dinner at Montbijou. The Russians and other foreigners were there, also some Englishmen.'

'November 13.

'The physicians were sent for at five o'clock this morning to Potsdam. The Queen was also there. The poor King is very weak and suffers

terribly. In the evening we were at Princess Louis's. The Crown Princess went to the theatre for half an hour. Then Suboff came to me.'

'November 14.

'The Prince of Orange arrived from Vienna. He came to me, and then we all dined at Montbijou. The King is very ill, but in spite of it they went to the theatre. I had a fearful number of visits of inquiry. In the evening all the Royalties came to us.'

'November 15.

'The Queen drove with the Crown Prince to Potsdam, and the latter came back very sorrowful. He had found the King very bad, and went to the theatre to divert himself, but soon came back, and remained sorrowfully alone with us.'

'November 16.

'An orderly came with news that the King is dying. The Crown Prince wished to start immediately, but then he lingered, and only started at mid-day. At one o'clock came the terrible news that the King had died at nine o'clock. I went at once, in my dressing-gown, just as I was, to inform the now reigning Queen.

The Radziwills were with her. We all wept together for him. I was half-dead with grief, and could not eat. In the afternoon I drove to Potsdam. There I found the present King, and wished him blessings and happiness. The deceased will be carried at once to the palace by the men of the first battalion.'

'November 17.

'I have not slept. I went twice to look at the dear deceased. He is very thin, but not at all altered, only a little swollen. We drove back to Berlin, and drank tea with the Queen-mother; she is really grieved. My Queen is quite stunned and upset, and so is the King. Both are in truth very unhappy, and the young King in his highmindedness would gladly have waited for his crown, to keep his father longer. The dear deceased was brought to the cathedral here, at two o'clock at night, of course in a hearse. The 1st regiment of Guards and his aide-de-camp accompanied him. Bischofswerder, who has got the great order, went down into the vault.'

'November 18.

'The birthday of the Princess of Orange. We went to her to wish her joy. The mourning,

by the wish of the late King, is only to last six weeks.'

'November 20.

'Before dinner to Frau von Prittwitz, to tell her that the youngest Countess Moltke is appointed lady-in-waiting, and also to Frau von Heinitz about her youngest niece. At dinner we had Generals Rüchel and Kleist, which latter is going to St. Petersburg; Tauenzien, who goes to London, and the gentleman-in-waiting, von der Recke, who goes to Vienna. Count Henckel is already gone to Rheinsberg and Strelitz, and a Herr von Wintzingerode to all the German Courts to which ours is related. After dinner so many people always come to me that it is a perfect torment.'

'November 22.

'A tremendous dinner. All the Ministers and Generals, Prince Suboff and Lord Falkland, Prince Ferdinand and the King's brothers and sisters.'

'November 24.

'At dinner the aide-de-camp, the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, who came with Herr von Schlotheim, Count Henckel, who is in waiting at present, and Prince William of Brunswick.'

‘November 25.

‘My mornings now are terrible. In my sorrow and mourning for my never to be forgotten King, the bustle, and the anxiety lest anything that had to be thought of should be overlooked or delayed, are very hard upon me, and to this may be added endless inquiries and letters. To-day came deputies from the Dantzic magistrates to the Queen, then the envoys of the German States and of France; there were really heaps of letters to answer. The Landgrave, the Prince of Baden, Count Schulenberg, Röchel, the Dukes of Saxony, the Prince of Brunswick, Prince of Dessau, the Radziwills, and the whole Court came to dinner. Prince Ferdinand went to the Holy Communion; Princess Henry is ill, and so are the three Princes of Courland. After dinner I had a host of visitors. In the evening every one went to Princess Louis; only I, as usual now, spent the evening alone, very sad at heart.’

‘November 26.

‘Young Countess Moltke arrived, and entered upon her duties at once; she is an amiable, pleasant girl.’

‘November 27.

‘A great dinner; the same Princes and Prin-

cesses as usual, Count Fereck, the Duke of Courland, and the Princesses. In the afternoon shoals of visitors ; in the evening the old Duke of Strelitz arrived, and is lodged in the palace, in the late Queen's apartments.'

' November 28.

' I had a great deal of writing to do, and many people to speak to during the whole morning. At dinner the usual Royalties. In the afternoon a heap of visitors ; the Queen and the Duke came to me also ; in the evening came Princess Louis, the Oranges, the King's brothers, and all the other Royalties excepting Prince Henry. We employed ourselves in needlework and pasting pictures.'

' November 29.

' Another great dinner, then a deputation from the Jews. In the evening paid visits with the new ladies-in-waiting, Moltke and Heinitz.'

' November 30.

' To-day again a great dinner. The Duke of Brunswick had arrived. The Catholic clergy had a solemn audience, then Count Grote, who is going to Sweden, and in the afternoon Herr von Jacobi. Then I had another host of visitors, and quite late I went for an hour to Rosencranz and

played a rubber of whist with him, Bischof, and Suboff.'

'December 2.

'Another great dinner, at which the Duchess of Courland also appeared, and Suboff and Falkland. After dinner visits; in the evening all went to Princess Louis. I remained at home, wrote for the whole evening, and had supper with Fräulein von Viereck and Countess Moltke, whom I like very much.'

'December 5.

'I went to the palace to see the catafalque; it is very handsome, but not sober and grand enough. My poor Suboff is ill.'

'December 6.

'A great dinner. Herr von Steinberg had an audience before dinner, and after dinner the Saxon ambassador, Count Zinzendorf. The Queen sat under the canopy, her household behind her. In the evening only the King's brothers and sisters came; between whiles we went also to the rehearsal of the church music for our beloved King's interment, which is really very beautiful. The Queen saw Frau von Steinberg in my rooms.'

‘December 7.

‘Another big dinner. As the King and Queen were not well, they both had some chicken-broth before dinner in my room, and then eat nothing at table. My poor friend Suboff is still ill.’

‘December 10.

‘The Guards rode into Berlin; the Queen and the Princesses drove out to meet them; they then stationed themselves before the palace, and presented their colours. We had fifty-six people at dinner—all the Princes and Princesses, and many officers of the Guards.’

‘December 11.

‘The day of the funeral. I rose at five to bring my family to the palace myself, that they might see everything well. Then I drove with the Queen, Princess Louis, and the little Prince Charles of Strelitz, with eight horses, to the cathedral. The solemnities were concluded by the funeral service at the vault. Only the Royal family dined at the Royal table; I sat at the second table next to Marshal von Möllendorf, with the governors and Cabinet Ministers; altogether there were nine tables served. After dinner at last I got home, quite broken down

with grief and sorrow, and yet visitors still came ; and in the evening we had all the princelings.'

' December 12.

' Déjeûner with the Queen-mother, then dinner at home. After dinner my good Suboff came to me again. In the evening a great supper because the Landgrave goes away to-morrow.'

' December 14.

' Another great dinner. The Duke of Brunswick was gone. Prince Henry and the Courlands were there, Falkland and Count Rasumowsky.'

' December 15.

' Prince Henry, thank God, has gone away again at last. The Duchess of Courland came to see me with her daughter ; the Duke persists in declaring that she belongs to her and not to him. Nothing is heard of Countess Lichtenau ; she is still under arrest in the new palace, and none of the heavy accusations brought against her can yet be legally proved. The King is still exactly what he was as Crown Prince ; exclaims at everything, will have as little etiquette as possible ; and great economy ; if matters can only remain so,

and these things do not increase with time, it is all very well.'

'December 17.

'The Queen drove with eight horses to the cathedral to hear the funeral sermon, which Sach preached, and which was very touching and overpowering. "Honour to whom honour is due" was not very well sung. All the Royal households were there. At five in the afternoon we drove to the palace, after a great dinner first, at which the King gave Stolberg the Black Eagle. The aunts came to the Queen's room before the reception began, as did the Princess of Orange and Princess Louis, and then went out after the Queen; I went last. Massow had brought the Courlands also. The Queen first gave a short audience to Adams, the American Minister, and then seated herself with her sister and sister-in-law. The Court was grand and stately, but a great many people came too late; all of course in the deepest mourning. Little Prince William was very unwell yesterday with inflammation of the lungs, and we were in great anxiety about him.'

'December 18.

'Little Prince William, thank God, is *somewhat* better since five o'clock this morning. We were

all in great trouble about this dear good child, whom may God preserve! The whole town came to ask after him, and everybody was anxious about him, but now the disease seems to be conquered.'

'December 20.

'Rosencranz goes to Rastadt, where Count Goerz and Jacobi are already; the poor German Empire is to be pitied!'

'December 21.

'The King went with his brothers and his aide-de-camp to Potsdam, where he inspected the Guards and gave a great dinner. We had here meanwhile a dinner of sixty people, their Excellencies, the wives of the ambassadors, and the foreigners. In the evening to the Oranges, and first to the Christmas fair.'

'December 24.

'At seven began the reception at Court, which was very large. Every one came to me beforehand. A number of foreigners were presented, then the Queen played with Princess Sacken, the Austrian ambassador, Prince Reuss, and the Minister von Heinitz. I played with Princess Louis. The play only lasted a short time, and we had supper at a long table in the picture gallery.'

‘December 25.

‘The first day of Christmas. The Queen went to hear Zöllner with Princess Louis and Countess Moltke. In the evening the King and his brothers and sisters gave one another presents; the rest of us and the household received no presents. The Queen got some splendid dresses, and I received a dove from Schilden and Jagow instead of my deceased parrot, which caused much laughter.’

‘December 26.

‘Prince Charles of Nassau-Weilburg came to dinner, and all the envoys from the small Courts, also one from Homburg, von Kirchbach. This Prince of Nassau is incredibly fat.’

‘December 27.

‘I was too feverish and unwell to be able to go out. The Queen came down to me several times during the day, and so did the ladies-in-waiting. Every one shows me such affection and kindness as I cannot be sufficiently grateful for.’

‘December 28.

‘The King and Queen came to see me this morning; I did not go up to dinner, but after dinner I went with their Majesties to the “Court

of Condolence" at the Queen-mother's, which was held in the late Queen's rooms. It was very sad and melancholy, the more so as it is just a year to-day since the poor Prince Louis died. Their Majesties spent the evening with the Princess of Orange, and I passed it in my own room with Fräulein von Viereck, Countess Moltke, and Prince Suboff, who with his equerry, Count Stackelberg, remained three hours with me and was very pleasant.'

' December 31.

' A great Court this evening. Count Sternberg was presented, who has been sent by the Emperor to offer his congratulations, and two deputies from the Silesian gentry. Supper at two tables. All remained till midnight to await the new year. The Princes of Weilburg, of Schwerin, and of Orange dressed themselves up as pedlar women, looked frightful, but were very amusing.'

' January 1, 1798.

' Which God has allowed me to live to see! May He give me strength to live rightly and prepare myself more and more for the end of my earthly career! We had a great déjeuner, at which Princess Henry was present and all the Princes. The Royal brothers and sisters remained

to dinner. The Prince of Orange is appointed lieutenant-general, Prince Henry to be captain. We spent the evening *en famille* at Montbijou. How much I thought of my poor departed King. Ah! I sincerely lament him. But the present Government is good and respectable, and will surely always continue worthy of esteem from the noble, upright nature of our beloved young King.'

'January 2.

'No more peaceful time for me in the mornings! Dinner by ourselves, in the evening the whole Royal family. Count Fereck came in quite late, bringing a letter from the Empress to the Queen, to thank her for her message.'

'January 4.

'Dönhoff and Gualtieri are appointed majors; the latter is to be employed in foreign service. Lindenau is aide-de-camp, but remains in the Royal stables with his former uniform, and is furious about it.'

'January 5.

'A *thé dansant* at the Minister Heinitz's, which lasted very long. The chamberlain Reck has returned from Vienna very well pleased.'

'January 6.

'A very large dinner party—the deputies of

the Silesian nobles, the Vengerskys, and General Myluis, who is going to St. Petersburg, and all the foreign Princes. In the evening a *thé dansant* at the Alvenslebens. It was very hot, and we came home very late.'

' January 7.

'The Princes came to dinner; a great Court in the evening; supper at two tables; a great many people.'

' January 10.

'Ball and tea at the Arnims. It was very full, but we came home at ten o'clock. After dinner Herr von Veltheim had an audience; he has been sent from Cassel to offer congratulations, and so has Baron Friesen from Saxony.'

' January 11.

'I was unwell; the Queen came several times in the course of the day to see me; in the evening we had the young Princes, the Princess of Orange, and Princess Louis; they went to the theatre and afterwards had supper.'

' January 12.

'We had a great dinner, at which were present also the two Counts Sternberg, the Princess of Orange and Princess Louis. In the evening we were alone together, which always makes me

quite happy. My Suboff came after dinner and stayed a long time; the Queen came down and sang some compositions of Himmel, which delighted him.'

'January 13.

'The foreign Princes came to dinner; in the evening a *thé dansant* at Alvensleben's.'

'January 14.

'Court and ball; the latter very full and lively, and lasted till six o'clock in the morning. The King went to bed at one, but the Queen remained.'

'January 15.

'Count Schuwaloff and a Herr von Saroff came with Pareck to dinner.'

'January 16.

'I am trying again to occupy myself a little in the morning, but I still have people almost always with me. The Queen was with me for a long time to-day, and saw also Fräulein von Schacht, who received a beautiful waiter as a present from the Queen. Rüchel is made commandant, and receives the regiment of Guards. Old Roeder is made lieutenant-general, and has received the red ribbon. Suboff came to me this morning for a minute; after dinner I had a

great many visits, then I drove to Frau von Rosen-
craz, and remained till nine o'clock, and the
rest of the evening I spent with Princess Louis,
where I am always irritated and bored.'

'January 17.

'*Thé dansant* at the Podewils. Grandmama
from Strelitz was expected, but she only arrived
at eight o'clock. I was sent for to the ball to
receive her, drove hastily to the palace, and found
her still exactly like her old self. The King and
Queen came home after ten o'clock, and we went
to bed very late.'

'January 19.

'Dinner at Montbijou; as usual, I was the only
other person there, as the Queen-mother does
not receive either the ladies or gentlemen-in-
waiting.'

'January 20.

'The Princess to dinner. In the evening tea
and ball at the Alvenslebens, which lasted till
ten.'

'January 21.

'The King was unwell; only his brothers
came to dinner. It was Sunday, when, alas! I
say it with remorse, hardly any of us now go to
church! A Court this evening, before which were

presented the deputation of Prussian nobles, Count Lehndorff and Dönhoff, then Count Lubinsky from Warsaw; then Pareck and Count Kutusoff, who brought congratulations to the King and Queen from St. Petersburg.'

' January 22.

'The King was very feverish in the night, rose late, dined alone with the Queen; the old lady and Princess Louis with us and the household.'

' January 23.

'The King less well. Dined and spent the evening alone with the Queen. The Princess of Orange has got scarlet fever.'

' January 24.

'The King has got the measles. The Queen came down in the evening and drank tea with me. She is unwell too, but does not think of herself, and is as usual in everything an angel!'

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We pass over the months of February, March, and April, and take up Countess von Voss's daily entries again on May 25, when their Majesties began their journey to Königsberg to receive the oaths of allegiance. During the months of which we do not give closer details the second marriage

of the widowed Princess Louis with the Prince of Solms-Braunfels took place, under circumstances which were peculiarly painful to the heart of the young Queen, who was very fond of her sister. Princess Solms had already been privately married, and now left Berlin, to live in future with her husband at Anspach.

The mistress of the household, in her sorrow for the grief which all this caused to the young Queen, says: 'This discovery and all its attendant circumstances have greatly affected the health of my poor Queen. Her virtuous and pure mind has suffered more than I can say; and the feeling of having been so long deceived was also very painful to her. One could not look at her without heartfelt pity; her deep sorrow over what had happened was affecting; and yet she had so much command over herself, that she never showed it to the world. She lost in this sister a tenderly-loved companion, who had never left her from her earliest childhood. But perhaps this loss was a gain to the Queen, and it was better for her to part with the Princess, than that she should have remained near her.'

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‘May 25, 1798.

‘At six o’clock in the morning we left Berlin; Prince Ernest of Strelitz and Dewitz came with us; we found fresh horses at every mile,¹ and each time also flowers, fruit, and refreshments of every kind. All went well, and at three o’clock we arrived safe in Stargard, where we found the King’s suite. We drank coffee and I wrote letters. The King arrived at six o’clock; he lodges in another house. We had supper; he was in a very good humour, and to please him the Queen went over to his house. At nine o’clock, Fräulein von Viereck and I left her, and went to our own little house.’

‘May 26.

‘The Queen drove to the review with Fräulein von Viereck. I wrote letters. A great military dinner; after dinner every one drank coffee with me; at five o’clock we drove to the camp. The regiments are very fine, and the bands of the Würtemberg regiments play wonderfully well. In the evening General Pirch had a *thé dansant*, and a crowd of people were there.’

‘May 27.

‘The Queen drove with Fräulein von Viereck

¹ A German mile = 4 $\frac{2}{3}$ English miles.

to the manœuvres. I received visits. A military dinner. After dinner their Majesties remained alone together, and the bands of the Würtemberg and Pirch regiments played them a serenade. The next morning at five we continued our journey and got to the Ostens at Plathe, where we found deputations of the peasants, the butchers, tailors, and shoemakers; the chief of the latter had got themselves up very much, and tried to do the agreeable. The Ostens had done everything that can be imagined to receive the Queen as well as possible, and we remained for the night with them.'

'May 28.

'At eight o'clock this morning went on; at each relay we found deputations of smartly-dressed peasants stationed; everywhere refreshments were handed into the carriage, or elegant collations served under the trees or in tents; one by a Herr von Wreczowecz, another by Countess Münchow; everywhere hurrahs, cheers, and wavings of handkerchiefs without end! In Cörlin we had a hot breakfast, and then went on to Cöslin, where we found very good apartments. Here we had a great supper; I presented all the ladies and gentlemen to the Queen, and at nine o'clock

we went to bed ; we had driven nine and a half miles. At Schlawe a frightened hen flew with all its force against my head, the effects of which I still feel.'

' May 29.

' At six o'clock continued our journey ; again received everywhere very well, and accompanied by an incredible number of people ; everywhere crowds, triumphal arches, garlands of flowers, and refreshments. We dined at Stolpe, where the Queen remained for some hours, and I had to present a number of ladies to her. A beautiful gift was presented to her, a portrait of the King set in amber, hanging to an amber chain. At three o'clock we went on, and at six were in Lauenburg ; Count Gurowsky, who seems to be rather odd, wanted to persuade her Majesty to stay in his house ; but it smelt so unpleasantly that the Queen went to the Burgomaster's, and Fräulein von Viereck and I each in another small house.'

' May 30.

' At nine o'clock we left Lauenburg ; the town is not pretty. We travel on always accompanied by a multitude of people, which is constantly renewed ; to-day we stopped on the road to make

our toilettes, and drive through the village of Brünneck, which is very pretty. Four or five miles from Dantzic a tent was pitched, in which a deputation was awaiting us; Massow and the Minister Schrötten were there also. As we drove into Dantzic the cannon thundered, and all the ships in the harbour were dressed with flags. The town is large and clean; a dense crowd of people was moving in the streets, who received the Queen with shouts of joy. We lodged in the house of the governor, General Kalkreuth, who rode out to meet us; his wife received us in the house and made herself quite unbearable. The King only arrived at eight o'clock, rather out of humour with the incessant cheering, and immediately after supper we all went to bed.'

' May 31.

' About two o'clock we went on to Oliva, after we had first been present at a review of the troops. At Oliva a great dinner; the buildings are wonderful; after dinner I presented a great many ladies. A walk in the garden, then drove in open carriages to the Carlsberg, where there is the most beautiful view in the world, stretching far over the town and the sea. In the evening in the town again a great ladies' supper party, then illumina-

tions and a drive through the streets; finally, we came in very late, at which the King was very much put out.'

‘ June 1.

‘ At eleven o'clock drove down to the shore, where the Queen was received in state by the merchants. An immense crowd was here assembled; we were led on to a kind of stage, which had been erected on the deck of a ship, and from which we saw two ships launched from the slips. On one was a figure of the Queen, the other is to be called the Crown Prince. It was really beautiful to see how the ships floated out. Then we also went out to sea in a rowing-boat, and finally went on board an immense ship, belonging to one of the merchants named Frantzius, who had made a dining-room on board, where we had dinner. Three of the merchants dined with us, this Frantzius and two others; it was all very beautiful. I never in my whole life saw so beautiful a sight as this harbour. After dinner we were taken through the lower part of the ship; the King and Queen also went down below and saw everything; and afterwards we went out in a sailing-boat, quite far out into the sunny, golden eastern sea! It was wonderful to see the glowing sea, alive with the mass of vessels which followed and surrounded

ours, and the whole air quivering with the cheers and shouts for the King and Queen; they were both very much pleased! At nine we landed, and dressed as quickly as possible to go to the merchants' ball. The whole town was more beautifully illuminated than yesterday; in the Exchange, where the ball took place, many happy, joyful people were collected, and the whole entertainment was most brilliant. I only got home long after midnight, and was up again before seven, for at eight o'clock we went on to Frauenburg. We stopped twice on the way at peasants' houses, and then on the banks of the Nogat at Clemensfähre, where we had dinner under a tent set up here by the merchants of Elbing. But we were half dead with the heat, the numbers of peasants, and the frightful crowd of people there. Later on we stopped again at Dorbeck, because the poor Queen had a frightful headache; so that we could only continue our journey at eight o'clock, and entered Frauenburg after eleven. The Queen could eat nothing; Fräulein von Viereck and I remained a long time with her, and did not go to our own room till one o'clock.

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